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Latin America Report

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18 April 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

- Record Production of 1,500 Barrels Daily at Woodbourne
(THE NATION, 15 Mar 84)..... 1

JAMAICA

- Program Outlined for Generating Plant Improvements
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 15 Mar 83)..... 2

MEXICO

- Briefs
Pemex Domestic Barite, Bentonite Purchases 4
Pemex Domestic, Foreign Purchases 4

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Briefs
Amoco 1983 Statistics 5

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Report on CARICOM Efforts To Improve Trade System
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 21 Mar 84)..... 6
- Chilean Exports to Argentina Decrease
(EL MERCURIO, 19 Mar 84)..... 8

Trinidad-Tobago Causes Concern Among CARICOM Partners (Ramesh Deosaran; THE DAILY GLEANER, 12 Mar 84).....	10
---	----

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Opposition Parties Weigh United Front for Election (Everton Barnes; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Mar 84).....	12
ACLM Organ Slams Government Electoral Maneuvers (OUTLET, 2, 9 Mar 84).....	14
Boundary Changes Bird 'Monstrosity', Editorial	
Accommodation Efforts by Opposition Parties Said To Fail (THE WORKERS VOICE, 7 , 14 Mar 84).....	19
Resistance to UPM Ostracism of ACLM	
More Complaints From Government, Opposition on U.S. Presence (OUTLET, 3, 24 Feb 84; THE STANDARD, 25 Feb 84).....	22
U.S. 'Militarization', Editorial U.S. Support for ALP Government Dissatisfaction	
U.S. Secretly Backs Hotel Owners in Anti-Worker Stand (OUTLET, 3 Feb 84).....	28
Deputy Prime Minister Threatens To Close ACLM's Outlet (OUTLET, 9 Mar 84).....	31
Bird Government Criticized for 'Mess' in Sugar Industry (OUTLET, 9 Mar 84).....	33
Throne Speech Promises Permanent Industrial Court Members (THE WORKERS VOICE, 10 Mar 84).....	36
Charges Exchanged Over Shutdown of Pipeline Project (Various sources, various dates).....	37
'Missing Funds' Allegation Slap at Trinidad-Tobago Criticism of Opposition Organs Government Statement	
PLM Foiled in Effort To Bring Water Issue to Parliament (THE STANDARD, 25 Feb 84).....	43

Briefs	
Minimum Wage Demand	46
ALP Candidates	46
Livestock Problems	46

BARBADOS

Former BLP MP To Contest By-election as Independent (THE NATION, 13 Mar 84).....	48
Straughtn Plans, by Neville Martindale Remarks on Third Party	
1984-85 Draft Estimates Submitted to House of Assembly (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 14 Mar 84).....	50
Revenue, Spending Projections Current Deficit	
Paper Finds Foreign Policy Facing Up to Caribbean Reality (Editorial; THE NATION, 14 Mar 84).....	52
Government Rules Out Possibility of Cable TV for Now (THE NATION, 15 Mar 84).....	54
Drive To Clean Up Health, Environmental Problems (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 14 Mar 84).....	55
Briefs	
Pitt to Canada	56
Sugar Factory Problems	56

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Final Portion of 20 December Speech From the Throne (THE ISLAND SUN, 14 Jan 84).....	57
Chief Minister Reports to Council on U.S. CGCED Talks (THE ISLAND SUN, 3 Mar 84).....	61

CHILE

Caceres on Loans Needed for 1985 Debt Rescheduling (Ciro Quintana; EL MERCURIO, 17 Mar 84).....	64
Textile Production Up in 1983, Outlook for 1984 (EL MERCURIO, 19 Mar 84).....	67
Briefs	
CODELCO Profits for 1983	70

COLOMBIA

Government Issues New Tax Certificate To Promote Exports (EL TIEMPO, 16 Mar 84).....	71
Forum To Promote Foreign Investment Set for July (EL TIEMPO, 12 Mar 84).....	73
FEDESARROLLO Predicts 4 Percent Industrial Growth (Jose Fernando Lopez; EL TIEMPO, 12 Mar 84).....	75

COSTA RICA

Briefs	
Mexican Refinancing	78
Rural Guard Director Dismissed	78
New Political Party	78
Technical Aid From FRG	78

CUBA

Commemorative Coins To Be Minted for Nicaragua (Jose M. Norniella; GRANMA, 4 Feb 84).....	79
Foreign Ministry Reaffirms Support for Saharan Cause (GRANMA, 21 Feb 84).....	80
Details on Petroleum Consumption in Sugar Mills (Juan Varela Perez; GRANMA, 7 Feb 84).....	81

EL SALVADOR

Briefs	
Abandoned Reformed Farms Reactivated	82
New FRG Ambassador	82

GUATEMALA

Political Leaders on Reforms, Foreign Intervention (EL GRAFICO, 19 Mar 84).....	83
Briefs	
New Chief of Staff	86
Nontraditional Export Incentives	86
New Government Officials	87

GUYANA

Review of Future Prospects for GUYMINE, Bauxite (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 13 Mar 84).....	88
--	----

Jagan Reviews Economic Woes, Urges National Front (Cheddi Jagan; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 18 Mar 84).....	91
--	----

JAMAICA

Manley Comments on Repercussions From Grenada Exercise (Michael Manley Interview; OUTLET, 17, 24 Feb 84).....	94
--	----

MEXICO

PAN Leader Accuses Government of Meddling in Church Matters (Joaquin Paredes; EXCELSIOR, 27 Feb 84).....	102
Federal Development Monies for Sinaloa (EXCELSIOR, 23 Feb 84).....	104
End To Intersecretariat Dispute Seen in COMAR Appointment (Carlos Fazio; PROCESO, No 382, 27 Feb 84).....	106
Border Expert Faults Mexican-Americans' Stand on Immigration (Jorge A. Bustamante; EXCELSIOR, 20 Feb 84).....	108
Federal Plan To Build 1,000 Dwellings Per Workday (Aurora Berdejo Arvizu; EXCELSIOR, 22 Feb 84).....	110
Irate Housewives Attack, Rob Milk Delivery Truck (EXCELSIOR, 3 Mar 84).....	112

NICARAGUA

Ambassador to Poland Reviews Nation's Problems (Jacinto Suarez Espinoza Interview; PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY, 26 Feb 84).....	114
Development Proposals for 'Special Zone III' Outlined (BARRICADA, 13 Feb 84).....	121
Briefs	
Sandino Film, Traveling Exposition	129
Battalion 40-21 Returns	129

ST LUCIA

Briefs	
Banana Losses	130

SURINAME

Health Minister van Trikt Completes New Cabinet (DE WARE TIJD, 28 Feb 84).....	131
---	-----

Bouterse Sees Ties With U.S. Being Normalized (DE WARE TIJD, 27 Feb 84).....	133
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	
PNM Prepares for Next Election With Leadership Changes (John Babb; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 18 Mar 84).....	135
Public Services Association Puts Proposals to Government (EXPRESS, 15 Mar 84).....	139
Robinson Slams Government Handling of Tobago Finances (SUNDAY EXPRESS, 11 Mar 84).....	141
Health Minister: No Progress on Tobago Health Facilities (EXPRESS, 15 Mar 84).....	142
Fire at Electrical Power Station Has Wide Ramifications (Leonard Robertson, Suzanne Lopez; EXPRESS, 13 Mar 84).....	143
Business Deals of Housing Projects Criticized, Probed (John Babb; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 18 Mar 84).....	145
Briefs	
Arms, Ammunition Importation	148

RECORD PRODUCTION OF 1,500 BARRELS DAILY AT WOODBOURNE

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

THE production of oil at Woodbourne, St. Philip, reached another record last month — 1 500 barrels daily.

That was announced in the Senate yesterday by Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, while speaking about the achievements at the oil wells.

In 1981, he said, local oil production helped domestic needs by 17 percent. In 1983, 37 percent of the domestic needs were contributed to by local oil production.

The energy minister said that 1984 had started out even more promising than last year.

Senator Griffith was piloting a bill which sought to authorise the Barbados Government to borrow from the Canadian Government money not exceeding Can. \$6 million to be appropriated and applied to finance expenditure incurred in the purchase of consumable materials and equipment required for the drilling and production activities of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited.

He recalled a meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation and Economic Develop-

ment when Barbados was trying to obtain balance of payment support.

The energy minister said the Canadian Government through the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA) had offered a Can. \$6 million line of credit.

In January this year, he said, the Government had identified the area in which the funds would be used.

An agreement for the funds was signed by Senator Griffith and the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs for the use of the funds.

Senator Griffith said the period of the line of credit would be 40 years and it would be interest free, ending in September 2033.

The line of credit support, he added, would be used primarily for procuring equipment and supplies for controlling the activities of the Barbados Union Oil Company.

It was not the first time that the Canadian Government had given Barbados assistance in this field, Senator Griffith said.

The bill was passed without debate.

CSO: 3298/634

PROGRAM OUTLINED FOR GENERATING PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] A major repair and replacement programme embarked on by the Jamaica Public Service Company for its generating plants at both Hunts Bay and Old Harbour power stations will cost the firm \$50-million on completion in the third quarter of this year.

Under the programme, the company has already completed rehabilitation of six generating units with a total capacity of 189.5 megawatts, while work is proceeding and planned for another three units with installed capacity of a further 158.5 megawatts.

Two units are now out of service and undergoing rehabilitation at Old Harbour. They are the Nos. 1 and 2 steam units, on which work will be completed by mid-May and the end of this month, respectively.

"We run a severe risk right at this moment of time because we have two very large units taken out of the system which we are rehabilitating. If we were to have a failure on one of our other very large units like the B6 or No. 4, we could have a problem on the system," said JPSCo's Executive Chairman, Mr. Orville Cox, yesterday.

Mr. Cox, was answering questions from the news media and representatives of national organisations following a tour of the Old Harbour Station. He said that the public had already been warned about this situation: that there could be problems in the system, causing power cuts.

"So far that hasn't happen to us--I will knock this table--and we are rushing the No. 2 unit to complete it by the end of this month. When we shall have done that, we shall be breathing a real sigh of relief because our system will be that much more secure at that time," he said.

Replacements and repairs, he said, were being done on the units within the range of between 60 and 100 per cent.

The B6 unit at Hunts Bay will be taken out of service for rehabilitation in mid-May and will be put back in service by the end of August.

Mr. Cox said that the work on the Nos. 1 and 2 units at Old Harbour and on the B6 unit was being undertaken by the Italian firm, Ansaldo, whose engineers and workmen had set up a small "village" on the site for convenience and comfort until the work was finished.

"Rehabilitation of the three generating units is on an extremely tight time-schedule and everything is being done to adhere to the schedule," Mr. Cox said.

The six units already fixed and in service are: gas turbines Nos. 4 and 5 at Hunts Bay, with a total capacity of 40 megawatts; gas turbine No. 3 at Bogue, Montego Bay (20 megawatts); steam units No. 4 at Old Harbour (68.5 megawatts); steam unit No. 3, Old Harbour (55 megawatts); and the hydro-plant at Maggotty (6 megawatts).

Two other overseas firms, Foster-Wheeler and General Electric, were also contracted to carry out the rehabilitation, he said.

Mr. Cox added that the production end of JPSCo was not the only problem area which was being addressed. Improvements in transmission and distribution, customer service and the maintenance of communication throughout the system had been effected, he said.

"It is vital, however, that production be kept at a level where there can be efficient in the system. We know that there have been severe problems in respect of power supply in the island but we have been doing our best to remedy this," he said.

Mr. Cox said that he felt proud about some of the work that had been done to date, although there was still a lot left to be done.

CSO: 3298/637

BRIEFS

PEMEX DOMESTIC BARITE, BENTONITE PURCHASES--Pemex will save 5 billion pesos in foreign exchange by purchasing barite and bentonite, which are needed to produce oil, from Mexican producers. Pemex was still importing them last year because Mexican producers were unable to achieve the goals that Pemex had set for them, Mario Ramon Beteta reported. The director general of Pemex and Armando de Leon, an engineer representing the producers, signed the purchase agreement for this year yesterday; it sets a price of 12,000 pesos a ton for barite and 6,250 pesos a ton for bentonite. In March 1983, Pemex and the Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry urged producers to make Mexico self-sufficient in these items. The above is "a clear example of how our import-substitution policy is achieving concrete results," Romarico Arroyo, the undersecretary of basic parastatal industry, remarked during the ceremony. Domestic producers will meet Pemex's requirements of 425,000 tons of barite and 50,000 tons of bentonite, and there are even predictions of exportable surpluses. The payment due date used to be 125 days from delivery, but to encourage the producers Pemex reduced it to 45 days. "Coordinated action based on a timely determination of the institution's consumption needs, will insure markets, jobs, programs of action and, hence, the rational utilization of facilities," said Mario Ramon Beteta. The results of this specific import-substitution program, Beteta explained, highlight the ability of the Mexican people to make intelligent use of their resources. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 29-A] 8743

PEMEX DOMESTIC, FOREIGN PURCHASES--Metepec, 6 Mar--In order to insure Mexican industrialists a secure market for their products and to create a network of sound joint interests with Pemex, the state oil company will allocate more than 286 billion pesos this year for the purchase of domestic capital goods, equipment and parts, while it will spend 143 billion pesos overseas, the director general of Pemex, Mario Ramon Beteta, reported today. During a ceremony at which President Miguel de la Madrid inaugurated the main offices of the National College of Professional Technical Education (CONALEP), Beteta noted that under our import-substitution policy, of the 430 billion pesos that Pemex will earmark this year for its procurement program, more than 175 billion will go to small and medium domestic industry, which will spur this sector and make the country less dependent on foreign technology. [Excerpts] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 5-A, 37-A] 8743

BRIEFS

AMOCO 1983 STATISTICS--AMOCO Trinidad Oil Company paid more than \$1,800 million in taxes in 1983. Mr. R. N. Powers, head of the Amoco operations in Trinidad and Tobago, made this disclosure in his annual review of the company's operations. He said the company grossed \$2,400 million revenue during the year which turned out to be the average of more than \$6.5 million per day. The money was used in the following ways: --77 per cent or more than \$1,800 million was paid to Government in various taxes--royalties, supplemental petroleum tax, petroleum levy, petroleum impost and income tax. --11 per cent went towards the company's cash operating expenses. --4 per cent paid for non-cash expenses and partial recovery of the company's capital investment. --The remaining 8 per cent retained by Amoco--based on Amoco's interpretation of the tax laws at the time the tax returns were filled. Mr. Powers expressed optimism about the company's negotiations with Government. He described the financial picture as a true test of the company's overall performance in 1983. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Mar 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/656

REPORT ON CARICOM EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRADE SYSTEM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] GEORGETOWN, March 15,
(CANA):

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries are throwing a problematic marketing protocol out the window as they move to rid of snags intra-regional trade in agricultural produce.

The Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP) is being replaced by what the group of English-speaking countries calls "a more appropriate and less restricted system" of trade.

Marketing and agricultural experts from 10 of the 13 member countries who met here March 12 to 14 discussed the mooted Common Protective Policy (CPP) for trading in agricultural produce. Their recommendations will be put to CARICOM's Agriculture Ministers.

The AMP provides for a system of managed trade in selected fruits, vegetables and livestock products. The CARICOM Governments have been complaining that because of a number of problems it has had little overall effect on the trade.

One of the problems was said to be "an excessive degree of bureaucracy" in the administration of the AMP.

The Government leaders, meeting in Trinidad and Tobago last July, sealed the fate of the AMP when they took a number of decisions related to the removal of barriers to intra-regional trade, the protection of regional agricultural production from third country exports, and the protection of agricultural development in the Caribbean's lesser developed countries (LDCs).

One of the problems the AMP has sought to address is the violent

swing from surplus of produce to a shortage.

About twice a year marketing and agricultural experts from CARICOM meet to declare their surpluses and shortages and to allocate produce among the countries, which are still heavy importers of food from third countries.

How soon the AMP will be jettisoned is unclear, but Government officials say the CPP is likely to be implemented over a period of time, initially covering a number of commodities, with a subsequent extension of cover.

One of the recommendations the Agriculture Ministers will face when they meet to finalise arrangements for the change is that the CPP should also be applicable to regionally produced substitutes which could replace commodities CARICOM states currently import from third countries.

The Governments have listed among the objectives of the mooted Common Protective Policy: the protection of regional production from competition from third country imports, the diverting of trade from third countries to regional producers, the facilitation of intra-regional trade, and the stimulation of regional production.

Another objective is improving the efficiency of the agricultural sector so that regionally produced food commodities would be price competitive with third country products.

Government officials have also been stressing the need for the formulation of policies which would address the specific problems of the

lesser developed countries of CARICOM — such as Dominica, St. Vincent, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

They suggested protection for the producers of raw materials and intermediate inputs for the manufacture of agro-based products.

They called for protection for producers of primary materials "at a level commensurate with that accorded to manufacturers."

The aim of this is to force the use of regional, as opposed to extra-regional, primary materials and to facilitate two-way trade in the Common Market.

Government officials have stressed that a Common Protective Policy per se cannot benefit the region. To be effective, they said, it must be accompanied by mechanism for stimulating production and facilitating the merchandising of commodities in the regional market.

Before arriving at the Common Protective Policy, they suggested, the countries would need to integrate trade and regional agricultural policies to harmonise public regulations in relation to such factors as support prices and subsidies as well as the linkage between the agricultural and tourist sectors.

Intra-regional trade has gained a certain level of protection through a Common External Tariff (CET).

But Governments have pointed out that the application of the conditional duty exemption available under the CET in relation to non-CARICOM materials conflicts with the requirements under the CARICOM rules of origin that identical goods should be "wholly produced or produced from regional materials."

They also noted that while no regime of regional quantitative restrictions is presently in force on imports, a range of restrictions has been applied by individual member states on a national basis.

CHILEAN EXPORTS TO ARGENTINA DECREASE

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p B-1

[Text] Chilean exports to Argentina totaled \$119.4 million in 1983, the 4th consecutive year of decline.

Imports from Argentina reached \$200.6 million; although this is higher than in the 3 immediately previous years, it is much lower, in real terms, than the historic level.

Exports

The graph below shows the trend in Chile's exports to Argentina, expressed in 1983 dollars.

Sales of Chilean goods to Argentina had increased from the 1960's to 1979. That year, Chilean exports to Argentina hit \$354.5 million, the highest level in the last 24 years.

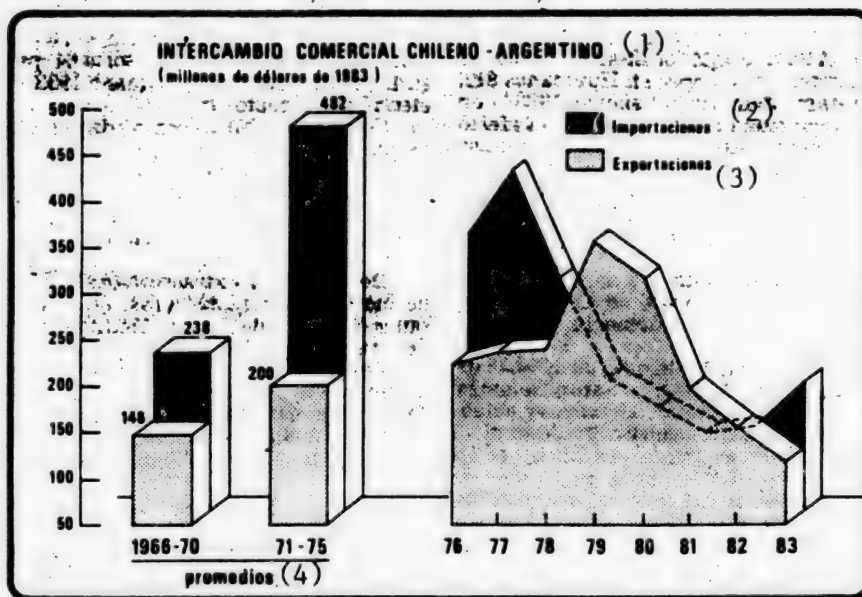
A gradual declining trend began in 1979, until in 1983 export levels were comparable to what they were more than 17 years before. As we can see in the graph, the current level of exports to Argentina is below the 1966-1970 average and, of course, much lower than the 1971-1974 average.

Chilean Imports

Chile's imports from Argentina reached their high point in 1974, when we bought \$774.1 million (1983 dollars) worth of merchandise from our neighbor. That was an extraordinary year, inasmuch as imports from Argentina between 1976 and 1978 ranged from \$300 to \$400 million.

As of 1977, however, Chilean imports from Argentina began falling off rapidly, reaching the equivalent of just \$146.5 million in 1981. We should recall that our country's total imports reached their highest levels in recent decades during that period.

Argentina has traditionally been one of Chile's main trading partners. Between 6 and 10 percent of Chile's exports were earmarked for that market from 1975 to 1979. In 1983, Argentina purchased just 3.1 percent of our country's overseas sales.



Key:

1. Chilean-Argentina Trade (in millions of 1983 dollars)
2. Imports
3. Exports
4. Averages

8743

CSO: 3348/334

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO CAUSES CONCERN AMONG CARICOM PARTNERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Mar 84 p 8

[Article by Dr. Ramesh Deosaran]

[Text] **B**elieve it or not, the fabric of Caricom is being ripped apart day by day over the past few months. In Trinidad, a mood of nationalism is being persistently pumped into the public consciousness by the People's National Movement government. And the grounds for this effort are shown to be many.

Covering this new mood of nationalism is the mood of Prime Minister Mr. George Chambers himself. Early last month he told a cheering People's National Movement convention here that he has grown sensible enough to distinguish "emotion from economic reality." This was an obvious response to the mounting appeals from other Caricom states for Trinidad to ease up on its new exchange and trade restrictions within Caricom.

From all accounts, the Trinidad Minister of Trade, Mr. Desmond Cartey, resisted all appeals at the recent Caricom meeting of

trade ministers held in Guyana. Several of the smaller states used Trinidad television to convey their economic concerns to Trinidad. For instance, Prime Minister John Compton of Saint Lucia explained that the restrictions placed by Trinidad were having deleterious effects on the employment situation in his country. He said that a substantial number of workers are being laid off because of a drop in exports to Trinidad.

Strict austerity

Barbados' Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams, came on as well as to attack Trinidad for its "negative attitudes" in recent times. Even the manufacturers in Jamaica have conveyed their concerns to their counterparts in Trinidad. Said Jamaica's Manufacturers' Association President, Mr. Anthony Williams: "More than once, we have said to our Trinidad brothers that rather than running to the bosom of their government for protection we should all in the spirit of free enterprise fight our battles in the market place of our countries."

But the mood in Trinidad is one of very strict austerity. Like his Jamaica counterpart, Mr. Edward Seaga, Trinidad Prime Minister Chambers has consistently warned us here that the pressures for financial restraint would be both wide and deep. And much of this emphasis would be placed on curbs on foreign exchange. "I owe my first allegiance to the people who voted for the PNM and me," he thundered to his PNM convention. And he insists on putting his financial house in order first, then Caricom.

The feeling across the Government here is that Trinidad "has been bending backwards too often

for too long" in the face of unfair practices from other Caricom states. One senior government official who attended the last trade ministers meeting in Georgetown, told the Trinidad EXPRESS this week: "Caricom faces death if drastic attempts are not made quickly." The Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Clive Teelucksingh, added: "Jamaica is seeking private arrangements with Dominica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. These preferential trade arrangements make it seem that Jamaica is willint to allow the dismantling of Caricom to take place."

Hard-pressed

In recent times too, at least two other Caricom countries, Dominica and Barbados, have initiated steps to work out bilateral trade arrangements with outside countries. And with the facilities now offered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), the whole concept of regional economic integration is sure to be pushed aside by the hard-pressed economic conditions now facing individual Caricom territories.

Mr. Chambers calls it "the new economic realism". And in this, his options have narrowed considerably. The manufacturers here have been putting intense pressure on him "to do something about the growing trade imbalances" within Caricom. It would be quite naive as well, to think that the aftermath of the Grenada crisis had nothing to do with this new feeling of "separatism" now engulfing the Caribbean. The only question that seems to be outstanding now is which Caricom country would be held responsible for the Caricom break-up, if it does come to pass as so many are prophesying? When Jamaica pulled out of the Federation after its historical referendum, the late Trinidad Prime Minister said "one from ten leaves nought." He too pulled out. In the Caribbean, it seems that one is enough to do the crucial trick.

Silent Hope

There is a silent hope in all this, even by the Trinidad manufacturers themselves, that this storm would soon pass. And they are looking forward to the next extraordinary meeting of the Caricom Council of Ministers to straighten things out. The current threat and sabre-rattling could merely be the leverage that the "more developed countries" (MDC's) in Caricom need to re-establish the practice of the Caricom treaty as far as trade is concerned. It is also becoming quite obvious that the politics of individual countries are not very pro-Caricom.

A policy for Caricom does not get much political mileage with the respective electorates, except of course where it means more jobs and more exports. The "give and take" which the regional concept demands has not been well established in the public mind as yet. Mr. Chambers, no doubt, senses this. And faced with mounting consolidation by the opposition forces in Trinidad, he is taking no chances with policies that lack immediate political advantage.

Trinidad may indeed be Caricom's most lucrative trading partner. But as the country which provided Caricom with the first one-party Parliament in 1971, it is also now in a highly political volatile state. And in the face of current appeals for trade revisions from sister Caricom states, Chambers may well say that he has also learnt to separate emotions from political reality.

OPPOSITION PARTIES WEIGH UNITED FRONT FOR ELECTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 84 p 15

[Article by Everton Barnes]

[Text] ST JOHN'S, Antigua, (Cana)--ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S four political parties are into feverish countrywide campaigning in anticipation of a snap election widely expected to be held next month--a full year before the constitutional deadline.

The Parliamentary opposition Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) led by veteran planter Robert Hall, has lost much of its support since the breakaway of the trade union arm, the Antigua Workers Union, (AWU) which later formed the new United People's Movement (UPM).

However, the party is promising in its campaign to build new housing schemes, generally improve utilities and develop agriculture.

Like the ACLM the PLM is telling the electorate that "corruption ~~regime~~ from captain to cook: in the ALP regime.

A PLM Government will provide Antigua and Barbuda with "a serious and sensible Government," the party says.

It has been highly critical of the poor state of the country's roads, which Hall said were better maintained when his party was in office from 1971-1976.

(The European Community has already committed \$13 million to road improvement here according to Public Works Minister, Hilroy Humphreys).

The United People's Movement--a breakaway faction of former Premier George Walters, PLM will be contesting the election for the first time.

Major Changes

The ACLM, led by leftist former school teacher Tim Hector accuses the Vere Bird administration of economic mismanagement and of being unable to address the problems that confront the nation.

It also alleges Government corruption and embezzlement of public funds.

Last week, Outlet said the ACLM along with the PLM, and UPM were holding discussions on the formation of a united front to fight the Antigua Labour Party.

There appears to be no single overriding issue which could have an effect on the outcome of any poll called here, except perhaps for Opposition complaints about alleged instances of corruption within the government, and the Bird regimes handling of the economy.

It may well be the latter, which could have prompted Bird to seek an early mandate from the electorate to push through his economic development programme to take advantage of the improvement in the north American economy on which the state so heavily depends.

Antigua and Barbuda last year recorded a decline of some three per cent in the annual growth rate, but according to Finance Minister John St. Luce, the country has been experiencing low inflation in combination with steady growth over the past five years.

CSO: 3298/645

ACLM ORGAN SLAMS GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL MANEUVERS

Boundary Changes

St Johns OUTLET in English 2 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] On Thursday 23 February 1984 the Bird regime unveiled in Parliament its sinister plan for winning the upcoming elections. The plan involves the arbitrary cutting-up of some seven (7) out of seventeen (17) constituencies to ensure the return to power of the corrupt Bird regime.

This savage assault on the electoral process, naturally went swiftly through parliament without Prime Minister Bird the mover of the electoral changes even bothering to speak on the motion. The cruel deed was done, signed, sealed and delivered.

The Election Boundaries Commission, made up of four members, three of which are notorious party-hacks of the ruling ALP, carried out Prime Minister Bird's instructions to the letter. As such, they did return a report which cuts Elections boundaries any old how, having absolutely no regard for numbers in the constituency, geography, community or parishes. This is a complete violation of the electoral process.

The three ruling party hacks on the Boundaries Commission are Joseph Manwarren--Chairman, an unelected executive member of the ruling party, Llewellyn Stowe, a sometime businessman and mascot of the ALP, and Millicent Percival, Chairperson of the WAGS, the Women's Auxillary Group of the ruling ALP.

The seven Constituencies changed are St John's City South (O'Marde ALP); St John's Rural South (Vere Bird ALP); St John's Rural East (Lester Bird ALP); All Saints East (formerly St Luke Charlesworth Samuel - PLM); All Saints West Hilroy Humphreys - ALP); St Mary's North (Robert Hall - PLM); St Georges (Adolphus Freeland - ALP).

The shocking and unjustifiable chopping up of seven constituencies, without creating a single new seat, was not explained by the Labour Party members on the boundaries Commission to themselves far less to the lone dissenting voice, appointed by the Parliamentary opposition, Wlikin Griffith, a chartered Civil Engineer.

Mr Wilkin Griffith was compelled to completely disassociate himself from the vulgar slashing of election Boundaries which ruins the electoral process before a single ballot is cast.

In his letter to the Speaker of Parliament and Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs Mr Griffith stated "I pointed out that there were considerable differences in the number of voters between certain constituencies, and any proposal for boundary changes should be based on an effort to adjust this matter, as far as we could. This point was not accepted by the other members, who expressed the view that numbers were of no importance".

This sheer outrage, of disregarding the number of voters in a constituency completely flies in the face of the whole area of a boundary, which is to ensure that the number of voters in a constituency is more or less uniform in Antigua. Bird's hacks who could not explain their own boundary changes refused to regard even the most elementary principle for changing election boundaries.

A Boundaries Commission, which pays not attention to the number of persons in the Constituency, is absolutely intent on hacking boundaries to suit only the ruling party, and to ensure a fraudulent and guaranteed victory for the Bird regime at all costs, paying heed to no convention of democracy or of simple decency.

The Bird regime will call elections in June 1984 ten months before they are constitutionally due, and the disunited ruling labour party splintered in several factions, has not even begun campaigning yet. It has guaranteed itself victory through the Boundaries Commission. Clearly, the ruling Bird regime feels that having cut up the boundaries to ensure its victory it needs only to campaign just as a show.

Indeed, controversial Labour Minister, Adolphus Freeland, a contender for the leadership on the departure of 74 year old PM Bird, left no doubt as to why the boundaries were arbitrarily cut up without any respect for numbers, parishes or communities.

"We did it to suit ourselves" said Labour Minister Freeland who has been involved in purchasing land virtually for free and selling it at a bumper price. One St Georges observer said that he is "Freeland" in name and nature.

Freeland, speaking on behalf of the Bird government in Parliament, publicly accepted that the 1984 elections have been gerry-mandered to suit the ruling party and the ruling party alone.

So blatant is the fixing of the boundaries and the elections that in one instance, All Saints West, parts of three parishes now make up one single constituency.

This constituency All Saints West, specially reduced and deliberately hacked out, was designed to bring about the certain victory of Minister of Public Works Hilroy Humphreys, who won by a mere nine (9) votes in the last 1980

General elections over former Premier, George Walter's wife. Mr Walter himself could not run the elections in 1980 because the West Indies Appeal Court had not yet overturned his conviction for Misbehaviour in Public Office. Humphreys, weakened by his own alleged Misbehaviour in office, now has a winnable but specially and unfairly created seat. Bird could not do worst.

Meanwhile, in a flagrant piece of 'boundary fixing the Constituency of St Luke, now held by PLM Opposition parliamentarian Charlesworth Samuel, has been completely abolished. It is replaced by a mammoth constituency disregarding numbers, geography and community, and which stretches from All Saints in the centre of the island to the Southernmost point of the island - Old Road! This constituency called All Saints East had some 700 or more voters added to it, and the area now includes, according to the new boundaries, "St John and St Mary, the villages of Matthews, Swetes, Bishops, John Hughes, Sawcolts, Old Road and that section of All Saints east of the main public road leading to Tyrells Roman Catholic Church."

At the same time, the Constituencies of Lester and Vere Bird, sons of the Prime Minister, have been tailored and cut up in all directions "to suit them." While City South, in which ACLM Chairman Tim Hector was slated to run has had the Police added as well as the Fiennes Institute. Traditionally, the Police have always voted for the party in power and the aged and poor at the Fiennes Institute, entirely dependent on the government in their helpless condition, are usually specially transported at election time to vote for the ruling Bird regime. The gerrymandering and fixing was not only unfair and wrong, it was downright vulgar.

The wanton and crude behaviour of the Boundaries Commission, following the instructions of senile P.M Bird, as it fixed the June 1984 General Elections, is well recorded by Wilkin Griffith, the lone PLM parliamentary Opposition member on the Boundaries Commission.

Mr Griffith wrote in protest to the speaker and the Governor General about this flagrant gerrymandering thus: "To my repeated enquiry as to the basis of these charges, the only answer eventually elicited was this was how he saw it. This was inspired by the Chairman (Manwarren) who again interpreted] the Constitution, where it refers to the Commission, to mean that no member has to give any reason for any proposal." Outrageous! Never before, in the history of elections in Antigua and Barbuda has any Boundaries Commission behaved in such a manner.

Clearly Bird's election Boundaries have no basis in reason, in community, in parishes, in numbers or any other standard of fairness.

The 1984 Election Boundaries are unjustifiable, unfounded, unfair, and downright wrong. The entire electoral process has been crudely violated and democracy has been aborted.

ACLM is expected to call on other opposition parties to mount a mammoth demonstration against this vulgar firing or gerry-mandering of the June 1984 General Elections, which the Bird government has publicly admitted in parliament that "we did it to suit ourselves."

Bird 'Monstrosity'

St Johns OUTLET in English 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Editorial]

[Text] That Bird is ramming through parliament his legal robbery of the upcoming elections is an indisputable fact. It is a travesty of elections and of democracy.

Gerry-mandering of elections is becoming a constitutional norm in the Caribbean. The improper, the wrong, the outrageous, is now being made legal and normal in Antigua. Bird and his nest of political crooks will do anything!

Seaga decreed a bogus election, refused to enfranchise tens of thousands that were young, while the electoral lists registered thousands more that were long dead.

Bird now will not be outdone. He puts Seaga's chicanery in the shade. Whole constituencies are to be cut-up. Seven hundred or more persons are to be subtracted from one constituency and added to another to ensure the victory of one Minister in All Saints and to ensure the defeat of the opposition candidate in St Luke's.

That Mr Charlesworth Samuel the current representative of St Luke is a tame goat, who is being hit with the stick, the big stick, of gerry-mandering by Bird is not in question. It is patent. It is too, to our mind, a most savage attack, on one who least deserves to be so treated. But tame goat and wild goat will feel the lash of Bird's unmistakable and vulgar abuse of the electoral process.

Perhaps Mr Samuel might reflect and rue the day when his party leader, Robert Hall, sold-out political opposition in Antigua by towing Bird's line on invading a sister-island, as the hand-maidens of U.S. troops. For that support Bird has now turned and bit the hand that supported him. And so Mr Samuel will have his political head put on the chopping block of a gerry-mandered 1984 General Elections. In the process St Lukes is swallowed up. Bird will do anything. He dare not risk losing this election for many of his colleagues will have to answer for their corrupt stewardship.

Nor is Bird content with that. ACLM and Outlet has shown up the utter incompetence of O'Marde, the Minister of Health, (of ill-health would be more exact) The den of misery and mal-administration that has now become the Holberton Hospital has to be laid at the door of the Bird administration, and on O'Marde in particular.

O'Marde was a certain loser. Until... Since O'Marde has become a political liability, old and weary, incompetent and useless Bird must find a way to make him win. And so the police must be put in O'Marde's constituency. And, to make assurance doubly sure, the helpless and the hapless inmates of the Fiennes Institute must be added as well. Bird's violation of anything called a fair election is that gross, that vulgar, and that outrageous.

Bird has no shame. To thrust upon the people of Antigua and Barbuda this monstrosity three months before the General elections in June is not just vile, but it is a complete abuse of democracy. Bird has rung the bell that summons him to political hell.

What can justify a government three months before an election making fundamental, sweeping and unjustifiable changes in several constituencies so that the ruling party cannot be defeated? Nothing whatsoever! Except, downright trickery, ruthless trickery.

Unless one believes that the ruling party should use any means to win an election, that is the only how Bird can be justified. Burnham is the author of this theory that ruling parties should not lose elections, using any and every fraud in the process. Seaga has advanced on that theory, and now Bird is putting the finishing touches to it.

Strangely, it is those who claim to be partisans of Westminster democracy in the Caribbean who are systematically destroying it. That cannot be gainsaid. Gairy did so in Grenada. Seaga and Bird have done or doing so in Jamaica and Antigua. The bell tolls for a system misused, abused and made useless for any genuine democratic development.

It is now up to the people of the Caribbean to construct some system of electing and choosing governments, which is not open to Burnhams rigging, Gairy's electoral fraud, Seaga's bogus election and Bird's flagrant gerrymandering.

Bird's new boundaries are not only unfair, but the manner, mode and means of their creation effectively destroys communities, (making Old Road and All Saints part of the same Community!) and in fact, destroys representation and parliamentary democracy.

Bird has finally asked the people to remove him from power, by those means necessary, and the sooner the better. Otherwise, Antigua will go down the road to a military dictatorship.

CSO: 3298/626

ACCOMMODATION EFFORTS BY OPPOSITION PARTIES SAID TO FAIL

Resistance to UPM

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 7 Mar 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] Poor PLM! They have a few years ago survived a split when their ex-leader went to prison and tried to run the party from there, and did the same when he was permitted to see day light again. The party naturally opposed this and so Georgie got his union "boys" to form a new party. During this time he properly dished it out to his ex colleagues, especially Robert, Victor and Charlesworth. But he received as much as he dished out from the same trio, especially McKay and Charlesworth.

After testing the waters on his comeback trail, Georgie realized that the A.L.P. was as strong as ever and looked very formidable indeed. So Georgie, whose only motivation for his comeback bid is revenge, calculated that his only chance to succeed is to lure his unsuspecting former colleagues back into his fold once again.

After all he fooled them once already, so it should not be too hard to do it once again, especially with some opportunist and selfish persons among them. He even made overtures to his communist friend Tim whom he has lambasted while in and out of power. (Since the Grenada fiasco he has described the A.C.L.M. and Tim as legacies) who needs a party which could not get 1 % of the votes cast 4 years ago anyway?

The early talks which Georgie and his UPM initiated completely broke down as expected, and salvos started vlying from both political platforms once again. They even brought the newspapers into the act, with Victor and Harry accusing each other's party of all manner of things, and blaming each other for the abortive talks. Georgie completely ignored these talks and preferred to go abroad to check on his 'Sugar'

In a vicious attack on his ex-leader at a Public meeting at Thwaites corner both Victor and Charlesworth made Georgie 'hop? After telling his audience how ungrateful his ex-boss was, Victor made the now famous statement that if he was as loyal to Christ as he was to George he would have been the Ark Angel Gabriel by now" He even told the meeting that at one time comming from a PLM persons funeral, how it was raining and Georgie passed all his members in his

big State car lounging off in the back and refused to give any of them a lift out of the rain, and how Bird came along in his old car and loaded it up with the PLM people. He said anytime in the future that he had to choose between both men, he would not hesitate to choose V.C. Bird, and he was now convinced that he was a man of the people.

At the same meeting Charlesworth explained how ungrateful Goergie was and how much money he and his colleagues had spent on him before and after his stay at H.M. Prison. He said that he still owed the money to the PLM and Pookie and Robert. He even stated that took off with their printery. He ended like Victor, by saying that Antiguan should never trust that man again. They and their party would never enter into any kind of alliance, merger, accommodation or association with Georgie and his UPM. All this was last year. Before the Boundaries Commission Report was made public, what has happened since then?

Victor and Charlesworth see little hope of them being re-elected and elected in their individual constituency and so as soon as Robert left the country, down to Freedom Hall they ran, and have been having 'talks' with Georgie since then. But Georgie realizing that he has them by their necks is insisting that Robert should not run again and allow him to contest that seat. The fellas are reluctant to strike such a deal. They remember Judas and the 30 pieces of silver.

The leader has now returned and the party seems to be split right down the middle again with persons of principle like Pookie, Robert, Smith, Stevens Michael, Halstead, Wilkin and others standing firm on their beliefs and principle. They would like to get rid of the alp but not at any cost. They have had enough of Georgie and his kind. They refuse to compromise their principles.

Be aware of politicians who would do anything for power. They are less than the scum of the earth.

Ostracism of ACLM

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Hector and his Marxist A.C.L.M. have been deserted by all and sundry, even his hard core admirers. The A.C.L.M. thought that they were doing very well up to a few months ago, but the brutal slaying of one communist by his deputy communist in Grenada in October, 1983 has changed all that.

Antiguans imagined tiny Tim being brutally murdered by Lonely Lovely. They just couldn't bear the thought. So everyone have deserted these people who believe in changing governments by force, irrespective of how many innocent persons get killed in the process. Like in Grenada, where over 100 innocent by-standers were killed.

A few months ago when the A.C.L.M. thought that they were flying, their leader wrote off Hall and his P.L.M. as a few lonely capitalists whom no one wanted, especially in this day and age when they are being lead by a wrinkle white man, a legacy from the colonial period.

Anyway, all this has changed since the Grenada episode, and the leader said at their last public meeting that he was willing to merge with anyone and he would not contest for leadership. Not yet! But he has confided to close friends that afterwards he could easily out manoeuvre George, Robert and Hewlett separately or collectively. Anyway he has decided to stay as far as he personally can from all this calaloo. He would not know what to tell his ple after that. He is keeping a sharp eye on Mackie and Charlie.

As a matter of fact in discussing the proposed accommodation last Sunday, the P.L.M. General Council never once mentioned the A.C.L.M. They insisted any accommodation must be on the P.L.M. terms, and George would have to understand and accept that. If Mackie and Charlie and the Spy Oliver wants it any other way, then they'll have to go) on their own.

Meanwhile George says that his supporters has warned him to stay clear of the A.C.L.M. or else they would desert him. While all this is taking place, both Tim and George are looking for a constituency in which to lay their heads.

A suggestion from this newspaper to you George is that you get Charlie to give you All Saints/St. Luke seat and Tim can ask the Little George to move over and give him the Point seat.

There is only one small problem. The A.L.P. candidates in both constituencies have them well sewn up!

CSO: 3298/625

MORE COMPLAINTS FROM GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION ON U.S. PRESENCE

U.S. 'Militarization'

St Johns OUTLET in English 3 Feb 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] Antigua & Barbuda to many outsiders is one big puzzle in which the pieces simply do not fit. To us inside we have lived, with confusion bordering on chaos, mismanagement and a lack of policy except corruption. This disease of the spirit is all pervasive, resulting in social, political and economic drift.

However, the latest piece which cannot be fitted into our confused jig-saw puzzle comes again from Lester Bird, the Caribbean's biggest enigma. Or is he an enema? Either word would do in the circumstances.

In our last issue we revealed how Lester presented this foreign policy review paper to Cabinet which admitted that our foreign policy was in complete shambles. How this same Lester wrote, in this paper to Cabinet, in black and white, that in the view of respected nations, including Britain, Canada and several African Commonwealth countries "we may be sacrificing our independence to the U.S." And there is no maybe about it. Our independence is being sacrificed, by the Bird regime.

More than that Lester, our Minister of Foreign Affairs claimed to be embarrassed and outraged that no sooner than the ink was dry on the declaration of the Commonwealth Summit that the U.S. announced it was sending "100 U.S. military advisers to the Eastern Caribbean States".

Worst, Lester revealed that no Prime Minister in the Commonwealth Caribbean knew of this U.S. military plan and 'project' for the Eastern Caribbean States. The U.S. does as it likes. Washes when it likes in the Caribbean Basin, and leaves the dirty water behind.

Obviously, the U.S. is intent on militarising these small states. And, it has its own military plan, its own military time-table, its own military schedule for accomplishing that end-purpose, the militarisation of these tiny states. And too, the big U.S. elephant does not have to inform these stingless ants,

called Eastern Caribbean States, of its military plans, or its total militarisation aims. Not a bit of it. When Uncle Sam say so, is so. Shut up and obey.

However, the grievous point is with Lester himself. The US. announces the militarisation plan. Lester objects. Indeed, and to be fair, he is justifiably enraged, infact, infuriated. He expresses his view at length.

To Cabinet, if you please.

And then, the U.S. military advisers descent on Antigua. They are training Antiguan soldiers. They carry through exercises at Comfort Hall, showing Antiguan soldiers how to take a village. These exercises are elaborate. Detailed. All the minutiae of the military procedure are driven on the the Antiguan soldiers, by the U.S. military "experts". They will use that knowledge someday.

And, while all this is going on what does Lester do? - Nothing. What does he say? - Nothing. This flagrant violation, which outraged him when it was announced, does not bother him evn when it is actually executed! Not at all!

He is concerned with the announcement rather than the actual militarisation itself. The fellow, that mad-fish, is surely thinking with his tail.

As a matter of fact one observer, observing this said that Lester is like a lady of the night who when approached by a suitor protests loudly and vehemently. But then after vociferoulsy protesting the violation to her false modesty, unasked, she quietly gets down on it and takes all the suitor has to give, including the crudest violation. Then at the end, asks for more! To protest, of course, when next approached.

A certain political perversity is implied in that metaphor. And nothing really could better describe the behaviour of our Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The man is all words and no substance.

But there is a larger point. The Bird regime is sowing the wind, and the Bible assures us, that they will reap the whirlwind. No getting away from that!

When the U.S. can no longer take the Bird regime - and that's just around the corner - when its unlimited corruption provokes the anger of the U.S. Congress, - and that has already begun - the U.S. will pronounce the death of the Bird Regime, and will call on the very military it trained to take over. Mark those words.

The U.S. will call on its own military hand-maidens within the Bird military to oust the very Bird regime who permitted it to violate Antigua's sovereignty forward and backward.

The U.S. will not use Commandante Walker. He is an undoubted patriot. But it will use the Antiguan equivalent of a Pinochet, a D'Aubuisson, or any one of the psychological profiles it has on our personnel to carry out its military coup. That hour is at hand.

It is, or it ought to be common knowledge, that the U.S. prefers military dictators. They do best what the U.S. wants. Namely, repression of labour, of progressive intellectuals and of committed patriots.

That fate, the military take over soon or later, most surely awaits Antigua. And that is not a prophesy. It is printed across the sky.

The only means of stopping it, is the direct intervention of the people to defend and uphold their own independence and to end this U.S. military madness in our peaceful midst.

A word to the wise, it is often said, is enough. Enough is enough. And that is not a slogan. We either recognise the gravity of our condition and act, or enough will most certainly become too much.

U.S. Support for ALP

St Johns THE STANDARD in English 25 Feb 84 p 6

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text] Dear Uncle Sam,

I have a few things disturbing my sleep these days, and strangely enough, whenever I think about them, you come up in my mind, and that causes me worries.

After the Grenada scene I was happy. I liked what you did there, but after a while I find that things start to change, and I really felt that with you around things would be the same as before and everybody would have a smile on the face and our islands would be as safe or safer than when the British used to be in charge. I know in your heart that you really want us to be happy too so I wonder what is going wrong? You are trying and we too are trying and still no happiness.

One thing that is upsetting me though, is that I wonder if you are sure that you have those Grenada guns under lock and key, because I never heard about armed robbery by Antiguan yet, until the other day, I heard that two Antiguan took over a yacht in St. John's Harbour three weeks ago but I didn't believe until I heard that they did the same thing in Deep Bay and tied up people and did all sorts of things with the people on board. Well I didn't believe up to the time and so I asked a friend of mine with Police contact and he admitted that something goes so, but the Commissioner of Police says we must keep quiet because it is bad for the Tourist Industry. I figure that people must know what's going on and I know you don't like covering up things so I want your assurance that those guns are under lock and key, and that your

military advisers are not bringing down anything of their own so that our fellows can't get their hands on anything, because it looks like our General Election is round the corner and while we are accustomed to fire plenty words around, we never have any bullets like Jamaica and so you see my concern.

Remember last time you told me that you never expected such rascality from these fellows when you helped them to take charge, but you don't know what to do this time.

Well let me tell you; it looks bad to see your army around here while we are heading into an election. It makes it look like if somebody wants to prop up somebody, particularly as you know that the popularity is on the wane.

Somebody told me that you are worried that in your view no one is providing any serious Opposition, but you have people here now so you know how the story goes. You know who does what, you know who have Condominium in Key, something Florida, and still build big house here and you know how much who works for and you still help them. Tell me, do you think anybody here can oppose this Government and still oppose you as well and still live? no uncle. Nothing can go so. If you really want to see Proper Opposition you must act responsibly and condemn the ills that you know are going on. Don't keep quiet and help. Things can never improve that way. If you are going to keep quiet then don't help, because when you help we understand that to mean that you are in favour and you know we don't like going against you. Remember you have more information Antiguan want. At least you could leak some to the press. Anything that is printed in the U.S.A reaches back here, so you don't have to deal on a local basis. You know all those things and so I wonder if that person really knows what they are talking about.

Our army never gives protection to Politicians to extend their turn of office and I hope your training programme for them will not include this topic, because some of us are really concerned.

Anyway uncle, I know I am going to hear from you soon and next time I'll be able to explain further so until then take care of yourself and see what you can do for us poor folks here.

Sincerely,

Your Nephew.

Government Dissatisfaction

St Johns OUTLET in English 24 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The militarisation of Antigua and the other territories which participated in the invasion of the sister island of Grenada, proceeds apace.

U.S. military personnel are now on Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent "training" soldiers in "techniques of counter-insurgency" and teaching them how "to take villages" and "key positions". The U.S. training,

said Major Clyde Walker, of the Antigua Defence Force, in an absolutely false statement, is in response "to elements in the community which have allegiance to certain communist States and which have been conspiring for sometime to destabilise the country." There is no insurgency in Antigua, or even a remote suggestion of one.

This blatant falsehood flies in the face of both truth and self evident facts. Antigua has been destabilised by the Bird Government and its own incessant corruption. Around the world, governments have lost respect for the Antigua government and even the U.S. government demanded payment of a long outstanding U.S. \$0.4 million Ex-IMP Bank loan which the U.S. believed had been corruptly misallocated by the Bird government.

The truth of the matter is that none of the governments in the Eastern Caribbean now involved in the U.S. military training were even aware of U.S. military plans for the area, and were not aware of this take over of their military forces by the U.S., until the U.S. made a surprise announcement which shocked the very governments who were supposed to be the recipients of this U.S. directed military training.

The U.S. itself is pursuing a reckless military policy, by putting emphasis on military expenditures, at home and abroad, at the expense of the aid to the poor. The U.S. is determined to impose a policy of more guns and no butter on the entire region.

Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird in a special report to Cabinet on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference which concluded in New Delhi, India, on December 1st, had this to say about the U.S. military Advisers and their training exercises.

"Cabinet should also be aware that on the day after the Grenada issue was settled by the [Commonwealth] Conference as a whole, the U.S.A. published a story that it was sending 100 U.S. military advisers to the Eastern Caribbean States. Obviously, this proved to be a further embarrassment to Caribbean Governments and served to re-enforce the African [countries] alarm that we may be sacrificing our independence to the United States".

Then Lester Bird followed up this with this striking statement "what is significant is that NO (his emphasis) Caribbean leader at the meeting, including the Prime Minister of Barbados, Dominica and St Lucia, knew anything about these."

Continuing to express his annoyance over this wanton despatch of U.S. military advisers without the knowledge of the very governments and countries which were being militarised, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lester Bird, wrote in his confidential report to Cabinet, that the despatch of U.S. military advisers without even the knowledge of the Eastern Caribbean States "displayed a serious contempt for Caribbean leaders by the U.S.A., and raises urgent questions about our sovereignty."

Sensing the grave dangers behind the U.S. military advisers, Foreign Minister Lester Bird warned the Cabinet of the possibility of a military coup in Antigua, by the very local military trained by the U.S. Lester Bird said "At this stage, I would wish to remind the Cabinet that Grenada was the most militarised country in the Caribbean, and the military shot and killed the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and seized the government." The same could happen here is his obvious conclusion.

Continuing to object to the U.S. military advisers Lester Bird wrote to Cabinet "The U.S.A. clearly perceives the aftermath of Grenada as an opportunity to solidify its influence on the Caribbean. Thus it has adapted a policy similar to its tactics in Latin and Central America, it is sending military advisers into the region." Carrying the point to its logical conclusion, Foreign Minister Bird observed "Through its influence with the military and the business community the U.S. has always manipulated governments in Central and Latin America." And warned Lester Bird, "Whenever any government has attempted to assert its own nationalism in its people's interest the USA has used the military and the business community to destabilise the Government".

[Facsimile signature here]

Lester Bird
Deputy Prime Minister

Just in case there is any doubt as to whether Foreign Minister Lester Bird wrote this document, to Cabinet we reproduce his signature alongside the date of the document as it was presented to Cabinet.

CSO: 3298/625

U.S. SECRETLY BACKS HOTEL OWNERS IN ANTI-WORKER STAND

St Johns OUTLET in English 3 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] A confidential document put to Cabinet, by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird shows conclusively that the U.S. government is behind the Antigua Hotel Association in its hardline stand against the hotel workers.

The document by Lester Bird, not only shows the wide rift in the government between himself and his father Prime Minister V.C. Bird, but shows the U.S. as having developed a full-scale plan to support business and the military in order to re-colonise Antigua. While Lester's paper does not say so explicitly, it implies that Prime Minister Bird and his old Guard Faction in Cabinet are going along with the US plan to bolster the Antigua Hotel Association, the Employers Federation and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as the military in Antigua. Lester declares himself to be firmly against this pro-imperialist policy being pursued by his father, PM V.C. Bird, and the Old Guard faction.

In this confidential document to Cabinet dated December 5 1983, Lester Bird surprisingly calls on Cabinet, but really on PM V.C Bird "to bring our men (soldiers and police) home to their families" from Grenada where they were a fig leaf for the U.S. invasion forces.

Said Lester Bird, in his confidential Cabinet paper about Antigua being hooked into the U.S. invasion of Grenada: "We have weakened our own security because since we have intervened in the internal affairs of another sovereign state, we are in no position to complain if any any state interferes with our affairs. The reaction of the international community would be that we are the victims of our own action".

Lester Bird leaves the matter in no doubt. He wrote in his document that the U.S. is determined to "solidify its influence" and control over Antigua and the Caribbean reducing us to the status of another colony and a U.S. puppet state.

In his own confidential statement to Cabinet, Foreign Minister Lester Bird said "The USA clearly perceives the aftermath of Grenada as an opportunity to solidify its influence on the Caribbean. Thus the US has adapted a policy similar to its tactics in Latin and Central America. It is sending military advisers into the region."

Lester leaves the matter in no doubt when he states that the U.S. "Through its influence with the military and the business community" the U.S. has "always manipulated governments in Central and Latin America". And Lester Bird adds with telling force against V.C. Bird's pro-imperialist policy in order to show P.M. Bird that the result of U.S. heremoney over Antigua will mean. "Whenever any government has attempted to assert its own nationalism in the people's interest, the USA has used the military and the business community to destabilize that government" The Bird government cannot even now assert the "people's interest" in the current Hotel Association hardline against local workers. Lester himself is a silent as a church mouse.

However, Lester drives his point home showing that the degeneration of Antigua into a cheap U.S. tourist colony, directed and controlled by the US has already begun. He wrote: "Cabinet should recall that the US is actively promoting the private sector" as a destabilising agent and as its local puppets to stop the realisation of Antigua's independence.

Members of the Lester Bird faction are of the view that the foreign dominated Hotel Association is following "the direct orders of US agents in holding out against the 150 Hotel workers in the current dispute and in blatant disregard of a Court order to re-instate the workers whom the Hoteliers fired after a one-day strike at Christmas".

This striking and damaging U.S interference in Antigua's internal affairs is borne out by Lester Bird's own documents where he shows that the U.S. is already manipulating the private sector to destabilise Antigua and Barbuda.

Lester Bird in his Cabinet paper wrote "Further, the private sector in the form of the Chamber of Commerce, the Antigua Employers Federation, the Antigua Hotel Association are being encouraged by the USA to forge themselves into one power bloc - the private sector Organisation. Obviously the intention is to create a strong economic force to pressure the government". The Antigua Hotel Association has already wielded its power against local workers and the pro-imperialist Bird government is powerless to stop the Hotel Association's open abuse of workers and its blatant defiance of a court order.

Lester does not leave the matter there. He demonstrates that U.S. tactics to make Antigua remain a poor, underdeveloped country and a puppet in the hands of USA takes several and varied forms. Among these, says Lester Bird, Antigua's Minister of Economic Development, the USA intends to "replace the Caribbean Development Bank with a Private Sector Regional Bank - with money flows to business and not to government projects".

And warns Foreign Minister Lester Bird, if the business community believes the US is acting in their interest with these "money flows" to them, they are quite mistaken. Because, says Lester Bird, the USA is determined "Under the bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to create circumstances where US businessment would compete in every area with local businessmen in their own country".

Added to that, in this well laid US re-colonisation scheme the US plans to use the Caribbean Basin Initiative to "encourage U.S. business to take a stronger hold of Caribbean economies."

Nor is the US content with all that. In the US re-colonisation plan, Lester Bird, Deputy Prime Minister of Antigua states the US will "place USAID scholarships for Antigua nationals in the hands of the Chamber of Commerce not the Ministry of Education".

With this U.S. re-colonisation plan already being implemented, and having Prime Minister V. C. Bird's active support, Lester emphatically calls on "Cabinet to consider whether we are not in danger of having exchanged one coloniser for another."

Foreign Minister Lester Bird also warned in another Cabinet paper that the U.S. "displayed a serious contempt for Caribbean leaders" by sending military advisers into the region to militarise the societies. Rather than confronting his father directly Lester hides behind John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia, quoting Compton as saying in response to the US military drive "I will not allow them to militarise my country". By implication, Lester was saying that V.C Bird was allowing and encouraging U.S. to militarise Antigua & Barbuda.

So as to bring to the Cabinet the gravity of U.S militarisation of Antigua & Barbuda Lester Bird wrote to Cabinet "I would wish to remind the Cabinet that Grenada was the most militarised country in the Caribbean and the military shot and killed the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and seized the government". The writing is on the wall.

Lester Bird, in all honesty knows, that the ruling Labour Party cannot change course, since its own corruption has already made it a tool, a mini-puppet in U.S. hands.

Only a new government with a new perspective, can change Antigua from going headlong into this anti-labour, pro-imperialist mess.

CSO: 3298/625

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THREATENS TO CLOSE ACLM'S OUTLET

St Johns OUTLET in English 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Speaking at a poorly attended meeting in the Point on Tuesday February 6, Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird said that he has spoken to P M Bird about "bringing" more charges against Outlet and continued the Deputy Prime Minister, "And if this won't work then something else must be done to the Outlet."

Lester Bird who huffed and puffed throughout his speech did not reveal what other sinister plans the administration had for Outlet which he confessed was the main thorn in the administration's side. Lester Bird said that P.M Bird's approach to Outlet was "too soft" and a stronger line would have to be taken against Outlet.

One observer pointed out that once Lester is not "reciting a speech written by Ron Sanders he sounds scratchy and incoherent, even stupid."

A foreign correspondent who listened to Lester Bird said that he was "appalled by Lester's low level, his assault on Press Freedom and his mean anti-communist diatribe". Lester labelled former Premier George Walter as "a Communist" and thereby revealed that his party's only defence against charges of corruption, squandermania and incompetence, is to label every major opposition force, especially ACLM, as "Communist".

Lester Bird has been particularly angry about revelations in Outlet, which showed him to be opposed to keeping Antiguan troops in Grenada, and opposed to the U.S. military training schemes still on-going in Antigua. The U.S. is upset about his charges against them for militarising the region, especially the revelation, that in these U.S. military exercises the U.S. acted without the prior consent of host governments in the region.

Meanwhile old charges against Outlet Editor Tim Hector arising out of articles appearing in Outlet on the death of a 22 year old Rastafarian youth in police custody in November 1980 have been revived and are to be heard in the Magistrates Court on Monday March 12.

The Bird administration which repeated the repressive Newspaper Acts in 1976 is obviously contemplating a new newspaper Act to suppress and stifle Outlet,

and if it wins the June elections it will launch this vicious attack on Press Freedom aimed specifically at Outlet. The Bird government itself publishes a newspaper with public funds, this government paper devotes 90 per cent of its front pages to attacks on Tim Hector in particular and ACLM.

The first hint of this legislation to suppress Outlet came from Minister of Agriculture Robin Yearwood. Yearwood's statement was roundly denounced in the ruling party's paper by Editor, Senator Robin Bascus.

The recent statement by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird shows that the Bird regime is set to launch this attack on press freedom, especially directed at Outlet.

Commenting on this Outlet Editor, Tim Hector said "Lester has now revealed himself as a backward, unprincipled fellow, and all the sham about Human Rights now stands exposed by his own assault on Press Freedom. History will not absolve Lester and the likes of him".

Continuing Hector said, "Only the people can save Outlet from this unlawful attack by those who make the laws.

CSO: 3298/626

BIRD GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR 'MESS' IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

St Johns OUTLET in English 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The 1983 Sugar Crop, and the Bird government's approach to the Sugar Industry was a complete disaster, characterised by wilful and woeful abuse of public funds.

This was revealed in the Report of the General Manager of the Antigua Sugar Industry Corporation, Herman G. Rohlehr, who resigned in disgust and recently returned to Guyana.

In his report on the sugar crop of 1983, General Manager Rohlehr, pointed out that the yield was not only poor, but disastrously low. It took 22.23 tons of cane to produce a single ton of sugar. So that from a harvest of 5029 tons of cane the Antigua Sugar factory got only 213 tons of sugar!

General Manager Rohlehr implied that this woeful performance was the result of the Bird administration insisting on a crop at any cost and at the wrong time of the year. Public funds were just poured down the drain. The General Manager's report showed that the poor yield of sugar from the canes was the result of "low sucrose content, which is characteristic of Antiguan canes at this time of the year."

The Bird government insisted on a crop last year, which lost money, and which commenced at the late date of 20th June 1983 when the sucrose content of the cane was known to be very low.

This pitifully small crop of 213 tons cost the huge sum of \$568,239 to produce.

This local sugar was retailed at \$1.18 per pound when Antiguan wholesalers can supply sugar at 52 cents per pound. That is more than a 100% cheaper than Bird's expensively produced local sugar. The Bird government has been resisting wholesalers who want to provide sugar at a low price to the public.

Every aspect of the 1983 crop was poor. The frustrated General Manager before his resignation said in his report "cane supplies to the factory were disastrously inadequate and the over-all, average, daily delivery was 110 tons, compared to a minimum requirement of 320 tons a day". Continuing, Mr Rohlehr

a highly trained and qualified chemical engineer, said "Such poor performance was reflected in a 46 per cent loss of net grinding time, due to cane shortages, and was the very major contribution to an over-all efficiency of only 18 per cent". In other words 82% of the factory's efficiency, energy and time, were completely wasted.

Bird's sugar industry is a complete mess and a wanton waste of taxpayers money.

Even the poor small famers who delivered canes to the Sugar factory suffered heavy losses. According to the 1983 General Manager in his confidential report "As a result of the crop's abrupt termination thirteen (13) cane farmers suffered varying degrees of loss, from canes which could not be ground" Mr Rohlehr further revealed that some 263 tons of cane belonging to small farmers (or some 24,000 pounds of sugar) were lost.

Much worse is the General Manager's complaint of how the Bird government failed to provide funds for the very crop which it forced the Sugar Corporation to harvest at the wrong time of year.

Said General Manager Rohlehr in his report "For the duration of the entire crop factory operations were jeopardised and compromised by the shortage, and on two separate occasions the complete lack of working capital."

The disastrous 1983 crop was much worse than that. Said Mr Rohlehr "On one occasion 38 hours were lost on account of the lack of funds to purchase grease for lubrication of the mills".

No funds for grease! The racist planters must all be laughing in their graves as the incompetent Bird regime cannot even manage a 200 ton sugar crop when in the bad old days the white planters produced as much as 40,000 tons!

Mud on canes caused the loss of a further 11 tons of sugar. This was due to heavy mud content on canes which was as high as 5% of the total weight of the canes.

The Sugar Industry as revived by Bird is a complete mess. In 1981 an 11 week crop produced a pitiful 37 tons of sugar. In 1982 a crop lasting from July 23 to August 30, 38 days, produced 82 tons of sugar, while last year's 13 week crop produced 213 tons. In other words, in three years, and three crops, the Antigua Sugar Industry has not produced even 400 tons of sugar!

The sugar industry was revived by Bird with much political hoopla "to supply a minimum" of 2,000 tons of sugar annually. Bird's complete failure is manifest from the figures.

Even before the sugar industry officially re-started, the loan funds were ripped-off by the Bird administration with millions of dollars being embezzled. This was revealed by the Caribbean Development Bank in its official audit of the Antigua Sugar Industry Corporation.

Corruption and financial disorder plagues everything the Bird regime does and does not do. The Sugar Industry is but one example.

Naturally, the Bird regime has failed and refused to present any accounts to Parliament as required by law on the government owned sugar industry. The Bird regime disregards both Constitution and law frequently.

CSO: 3298/626

THRONE SPEECH PROMISES PERMANENT INDUSTRIAL COURT MEMBERS

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 10 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Wilfred Jacobs delivered the Throne Speech at the opening of Parliament on Thursday 8th March, 1984. After a very impressive ceremony which included members of the Defence and Police Forces, Sir Wilfred accompanied by both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, proceeded to read, what many observers hinted, was a very straight forward and deep speech, with a well defined program for 1984.

Of significance to Trade Unions and workers in the country, is the promise made to nominate permanent members to the Industrial Court and to select persons with a background in Industrial Relations.

For many years now the A.T.L.U. has been calling for the nomination of persons with legal and industrial relations experience, to sit as permanent members of the Court. The main objection this Union has to the Court, is the exceedingly long delay which workers must endure before their cases could get a hearing. We firmly believe that Justice delayed is Justice denied.

The A.T.L.U. in submitting amendments to the Labour Code in 1983 included the above as one of the major amendments, for employers have taken a very unfair advantage of workers, because some cases take years, before the first hearing. The Union also requested that the first hearing of any dispute referred to the Court should not exceed 45 days after referral. This would ensure that everyone gets a fair deal.

It is now up to the Unions to ensure that the Government makes this one of it's priority pledges for 1984.

CSO: 3298/627

CHARGES EXCHANGED OVER SHUTDOWN OF PIPELINE PROJECT

'Missing Funds' Allegation

St Johns OUTLET in English 24 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The laying of water-pipes, in Antigua using PVC manufactured in Trinidad, a \$12 million project financed by the Trinidad and Tobago government, has come to an abrupt halt.

On Friday 17 February workers on the pipeline project were told that "the funds have run out" and that the Antigua government is waiting on a \$2 million disbursement from Trinidad which has been held up by the Chambers government in Trinidad for reason or reasons unknown.

The workers were sent home with two days pay due to them still outstanding, and without being told from what date work on the project is likely to resume.

The shock closure of the pipeline project has temporarily swelled the ranks of the mushrooming unemployed, adding to closure of the West Indies Oil Company, the lockdown at Linton Mark, the severe cut-backs at the Coolidge Industrial Park due to several foreign manufactures sending goods to Trinidad which were not produced in Antigua, but in Taiwan and South Korea, but which goods carried "Made in Antigua" labels. This fraud angered Trinidad producers and the government.

The surprise halt in the laying of pipelines in Antigua comes in the wake of the disappearance of half a million dollars allocated for the project.

Within the Ministry of Public Utilities. The blame for the disappearance of \$1/2 million dollars from the project is being put down to a flimsy excuse about "an error in paper work".

Reasonably, if the paper work is wrong that should not mean that the dollars should be missing. The dollars should be still there while the paper work is corrected.

The missing \$1/2 million is either mis-appropriated or embezzled.

The Bird government has a long and sorry record of mis-management of public funds, and its corrupt practices have affected every single aspect of

Antigua's affairs. This time scores of workers have been thrown on the breadline as a result of the Bird regime's sticky fingers.

The Bird government has given no explanation for the sudden shutdown of the pipeline project. However unofficial sources in Trinidad claim that funds for the Antigua pipeline project have been held up pending investigation "of funds for the project which might have been misallocated by the Antigua Government." The Trinidad based spokesman would not elaborate, but said that the Trinidad Government was also concerned that its funds was "being used as part of an election drive" and the Chambers government "would not want to be seen as indirectly or directly intervening in Antigua's internal affairs, particularly during a general elections".

No comment could be obtained from the Ministry of Public Utilities about this sudden halt in the pipeline project.

Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works, Hilroy Humphreys, has publicly criticised the Pipeline project. Humphreys claimed to be "worried about the tremendous damage" being caused by the laying of new pipes particularly in the Skerritts Pasture area. According to Minister of Public Works Hilroy Humphreys: "They dig up the roads the mud goes all over the road and government Public Works are blamed". Who else should be blamed?

Humphreys continuing said "We are now negotiating with the Pipeline personnel about compensation for roads destroyed. They are now working on the All Saints Road and I assume the government will be blamed again for road damages."

Minister Humphreys seems to be blissful in his ignorance that his own government must be held guilty for faulty planning in that it launched a pipeline project, which involved the digging up of roads, without having allocated any funds for the repair of the roads after the pipes were laid. Humphreys, as always, seems willing to pass the buck for the elementary failures of the government to plan. It would seem like the merest common sense that a pipeline project requires an ancillary project for re-laying roads, and this should have been negotiated at the same time and in the same package as the pipeline project.

Responding to the many complaints about the roads, most of which have deteriorated without being affected by the pipeline project.

Minister of Public Works Humphreys said:

"A man will come and say that a hole dug by Public Works Department broke his shocks. On investigation one finds out that the same hole has been dug by APUA.

"It is still a government department and we should not want to blame them, but bear in mind, as time progresses things do happen."

It is difficult to understand what Minister Humphreys meant by this statement. He seems to have been muddled by his own words, and worse confused by the enormous muddle his own government has made of everything.

After all the hoopla made by the Bird government about the pipeline projects which has been long promised and long delayed, the Bird regime has remained stonily silent, while workers have been thrown into unemployment through no fault of their own.

Slap at Trinidad-Tobago

St Johns THE STANDARD in English 25 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Trinidad Pipeline Project suddenly closed down its operations on the island at the end of last week, laying off virtually all the workers and privately owned trucks and other equipment, until further notice. This has placed scores of workers out of work, sending them home to join the thousands already unemployed.

Workers Annoyed

This drastic action has greatly annoyed and upset the workers employed by the Project because, when the Project started, workers were assured that in an effort to have all the work completed in record time, they would be given steady employment. What makes the workers even more annoyed is the sudden and abrupt manner in which this closure and laying off was done. They were given no notice so that they could plan for the event.

Large Gaping Holes

If the long expected rains were to pour down suddenly upon Antigua right now, many of our roads would suddenly become death traps as a result of the large deep holes left uncovered at the sides of our roads and sometimes right in the middle of the roads. If the persons responsible for the Project knew that they were going to close down whether temporarily or permanently, then they should have arranged to have all gaping holes closed so that motorists and pedestrians be afforded a fair measure of safety, during the time when the Project ceases to operate.

Good Co-Operation from Antiguan

The road users in Antigua have patiently endured all the inconveniences caused by the Project. Houseowners too have had to undergo much inconvenience with the piles of mud and immeasurable volumes of dust piled on to their premises by the operations of the Project. Entrances to houses have had to be across deep and precipitous trenches, gutters, and gaping holes. People have had to leave their motor cars a little way from their homes sometimes, because the entrances for their cars are dug up.

Workers Taken By Surprise

All these inconveniences have been borne patiently. There have been few complaints. Nobody has had to resort to legal action as far as we are aware.

The least that the very patient and tolerating public would expect of the Project is that the workers be treated with good respect, and not to be suddenly sent home. Just as the public of Antigua were warned by radio and television about the excavation works of the Project and asked to co-operate as best they could, so should the workers be given due warning by the Project about being laid off.

Construction Work Low

Construction work on the island is very low. The launching of the Pipeline Project provided much needed employment for construction workers and general labourers. Large numbers of trucks laid off by Public Works also found employment with the Project. This sudden lay off and closure constitute a grave let-down to all the grand and glorious boasts and claims made in favour of the Project at its Opening Ceremony only a few weeks ago by Prime Minister Bird and Minister Hugh Marshall in particular.

Shortage of Money??

It is understood that the lay-off and closure have resulted from shortage of money in that the Trinidad and Tobago Government has been slow to approve release of funds for the project. The ALP Government must explain to the people of this nation the true position. Our understanding of this whole matter is that the Project is being financed by a loan made to the Government of Antigua by the Government of Trinidad. The terms and conditions of the loan were negotiated and agreed upon long before the Project started. Why then should there be any hold up of the Project because of money problems? Are we to expect that this is how the Project will proceed, stopping and starting at will, irrespective of the inconvenience caused to workers, road-users and all others in Antigua.

Yet Another Trinidad Ban?

When time comes for Antigua to repay this borrowed money to Trinidad with the accrued interest, will the Government and people of Trinidad be satisfied to accept repayment however and whenever we feel like paying, irrespective of the terms of repayment previously agreed to? Antigua already has received from Trinidad great inconvenience caused by the ban imposed on manufactured goods coming out of Antigua. Several factories were forced to lay-off workers as a result of the ban imposed by Trinidad. Now the Pipeline Project seems yet another ban from Trinidad. The ALP Government must explain to the nation now.

Criticism of Opposition Organs

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Rumours as usual have been making the records since the Trinidad and Tobago Pipe Line Project management, some two weeks ago informed their workers that they were forced to suspend operations for what they considered would be a short period (about a week or two) since they were experiencing difficulty in having the necessary funds channelled to Antigua from the Trinidad and

Tobago Central Bank. They have paid all their employees fully, up to the time the operations were suspended.

Mr. George Johnson, manager of the Project called all the employees to gether on the final pay day and explained the difficulty in obtaining funds from Trinidad and Tobago to the workers. Some accepted this explanation, while others murmured that management was taking the opportunity in order to go back home for Carnival. A fete which Trinidadians never miss.

The Antigua Government must be complimented for having embarked on this project. It has afforded the opportunity for employment to nearly 100 Antiguanans and have been paying wages above those which exist in the construction industry in Antigua. The relationship between management and employee is a very good one, and John Public has commented favourably on the speed with which these employees work.

But as usual, both opposition newspapers have been attempting to link the A.L.P. Govt. with the suspension of operations and one even went as far as to say that 1/2m. dollars was missing from the funds. While most people have grown accustomed to the Outlet and its ridiculous attempt to smear the character of citizens of the state, especially members of Govt. and have contemptuously relegated it to the waste paper baskets, nevertheless these people must realize that they are asking Antiguanans and Barbudans to trust them with the reins of Govt., so they must act more responsible. It is an open secret that the death of the Grenada revolution has put them back another 20 years, so they need to gain the confidence of the electorate, but certainly not by imagining all sorts of 'nancy' stories which could only exist in their warped minds.

The Trinidad and Tobago Pipeline has been doing a wonderful job, and we certainly hoped that they resume operations soon.

However, we must condemn the Govt. for not issuing a statement on the matter or asking the management of the Projects to do so. The public is entitled to such an explanation.

Government Statement

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] The Government today called on the public not to be deceived by the deliberately misleading stories printed by the Outlet, the propaganda organ of the Marxist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM).

In a statement issued from the Ministry of Public Works, the Government exposed another misleading story in the ACLM's propaganda broadsheet. This time the story surrounds the temporary break in the Pipeline Project which is being financed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The Government statement makes it clear that the Trinidad and Tobago does not pay monies directly to the Ministry of Public Works for the PVC pipes. The monies are paid to the Trinidad-Based firm, Trinidad Pipeline, which executes the project. In this

circumstance, it would be impossible for anyone in Antigua and Barbuda to misappropriate or misallocate funds.

The Government statement went on to reveal that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, like most other Governments in the world, is experiencing economic difficulties. From December 1982 to September 1983, Trinidad and Tobago had a visible trade deficit of two hundred and fifty-seven million U.S. dollars. With oil resources dwindling the Trinidad Government's revenue has declined with a fall of 25% in taxes collected from oil sales. In fact, a Trinidad Central Bank report indicated that in the first half of 1983, the Government spent one hundred and sixty million U.S. dollars more than it collected.

Consequently, the Trinidad and Tobago Government has announced that it will cut subsidies on a wide range of goods and services, petrol prices will go up, imports are to be cut and no foreign exchange will be available for the importation of beer and other beverages. Moreover, the Trinidad Government will increase Land Tax and a Purchase Tax has been extended to a large quantity of goods including building materials.

The Antigua and Barbuda Government statement said that in the light of these austere economic measures which have been introduced domestically, the Trinidad and Tobago Government is naturally holding back on external expenditure until the economic picture for the twin island State becomes clearer.

The statement also pointed out that the Bilateral Agreement with Trinidad was signed at a period of High oil prices and a booming economy, but the people of Antigua and Barbuda must now be sympathetic to the changing circumstances of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. It was pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago has recently borrowed twenty-six million U.S. dollars from Japan and, in this circumstance, there is an obvious constraint on Trinidad's ability to lend.

The Ministry of public works statement said that despite the economic difficulties being faced by Trinidad and Tobago, the Antigua and Barbuda Government is confident that its sister Government will adhere to the Bilateral Agreement, under which the pipe project was undertaken, as soon as its economic situation improves, the Antigua and Barbuda Government is seeking an early meeting with the Trinidad and Tobago Government to attempt to determine a time frame for the re-start of the Project.

In the meanwhile, the Government deplored the shameful attempts by the Marxist ACLM to exploit genuine economic difficulties facing a sister Caribbean State for cheap political purposes.

CSO: 3298/627

PLM FOILED IN EFFORT TO BRING WATER ISSUE TO PARLIAMENT

St Johns THE STANDARD in English 25 Feb 84

[Editorial Report] The Progressive Labour Movement weekly THE STANDARD of 25 February carries reports on the unsuccessful efforts of the party to raise in parliament a discussion of the shortage of water in the country. On page 1, under the headline "ALP Gov't Refuses to Discuss Antigua's Water Problem in Parliament. Speaker Murray Rules That Water Shortage Not Important Enough To Be Debated in Parliament," the paper reports as follows, then referring readers to page 3:

"If the water shortage situation is not important enough to be debated in Parliament, the Highest Court of the Land, then whatever else in the world is important enough. With only one week's supply of water remaining at Potworks Dam, nothing could be more important to Antigua than WATER at this time, hence Speaker Murray is a thousand times wrong to rule that the present water shortage situation is not important enough to be debated in our Parliament.

"This is what took place in Parliament last Thursday, February 23, at a meeting of the House of Representatives."

On page 3, the paper runs the text of a letter from MP C.T. Samuel to Speaker of the House Murray:

Cassada Gardens,
Old Parham Road.

February 23, 1984.

Speaker,
House of Representatives
Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda
Honourable C. L. Murray.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with Standing #12 (1) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives I hereby notify you of my intention to "ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance" at the meeting of the House scheduled for 9.30 a.m. today.

The matter which I propose to discuss is the disastrous water shortage which Antigua now faces, and the many adverse consequences, including the prevalence of gastro-enteritis among young children in particular.

I humbly invite you to consider the following facts in your coming to a decision in this matter:-

(i) Only two Opposition Members are likely to speak on the issue, hence the discussion should not be unduly long.

(ii) This is likely to be the last meeting before Parliament is prorogued.

(iii) According to a recent Press Release from the A.P.U.A., Potworks Dam has only about one week's supply of water remaining.

Yours respectively,

C.T. Samuel, M.P.

Immediately below this letter it carries what a headline identifies as "Copy of Resolution Hon. C.T. Samuel Sought to Move in Parliament Last Thursday, February 23, and Turned Down by Speaker Murray":

"Whereas the prolonged drought has caused our domestic water supply to be almost completely exhausted, and

"Whereas the supply of water remaining in Potworks Dam is estimated to last only about one more week, and

"Whereas the existing prevalence of gastro-enteritis is widely believed to be a direct result of deficiencies in our domestic water supply, and

"Whereas a sufficient water supply is so vitally necessary for the health and economic prosperity of our people, and

"Whereas neither the present Government nor any other person or agency knows for sure exactly when the rains will fall, to end the prevailing drought conditions, and

"Whereas calamity and disaster are bound to prevail in Antigua when there is no water available for our domestic use, and

"Whereas people are suffering now and entertain grave doubts and fears as to what will happen beyond next week if the rains do not break, and

"Whereas the people of Antigua and Barbuda are not aware of Government having any immediate specific plans to solve the problem.

"Be it resolved that Cabinet or the Hon. Minister responsible for Public Utilities and for water in particular, here and now declare to this Honourable

House what specific plans are made for providing domestic water to the people of Antigua beyond next week, when the supply in Potworks Dam is expected to be exhausted."

Elsewhere on the same page, appears the following item criticizing the government for its failure to device adequate emergency plans to deal with severe shortages of water:

"The water shortage situation in Antigua is definitely worsening. Pipeborne water to people's homes, business places and schools are remaining OFF for longer periods. This newspaper recently highlighted the need for a carefully worked out DISASTER PLAN for providing the island with water for domestic use, in case the rains do not fall very soon in heavy showers. It was urged that a country without water be reckoned as one struck by hurricane, earthquake, or military invasion.

"Up to now, the ALP Government has remained complacent on the issue. The only disaster plan that they seem to have is that which they are already applying. It is the plan of turning the mains OFF. Of course this is no solution, but they do not seem to care.

"A DISASTER PLAN should be made known to the public. The notion that IGNORANCE IS BLISS has no application here. Our Ministers of Religion and other devout Christians are urged to pray for rain, but this alone is no solution. We need some concrete and carefully worked out plans.

"If the plan is to resort to desalination of sea water, then the desaltation plant or plants should be held in readiness to be switched on at any moment. If the plan is to import water from Guadeloupe, Montserrat, St. Kitts, or elsewhere, then the barges should already be on STANDBY.

"The wells are yielding very little water and Potworks Dam is almost dry. We call upon the ALP Government to disclose the DISASTER PLAN for water."

CSO: 3298/627

BRIEFS

MINIMUM WAGE DEMAND--It is long overdue now that a review of the minimum wage be undertaken. The A.L.P. Government introduced the minimum wage act since September 1981. Since then, the cost of living has soared quite appreciably and those employers who are unionized have been able to receive wages above the minimum but the greater bulk of workers are not under union contract and employers have been paying them the bare minimum since its introduction. Imagine in 1984 a maid receives \$1.25 per hour. Agricultural workers \$.65 per hour. Receptionist and Cashiers \$2.00 per hour. Mason, Electricians, Painters, Plumbers Carpenters etc., are paid \$3.50 per hour. The A.T.&L.U. realizes that the A.L.P. is the only party which cares for all the people and if they don't do it, none of the others would. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 10 Mar 84 p 6]

ALP CANDIDATES--As a meeting in the heart of the Point area the chairman of the Labour Party Comrade Lester Bird told a large gathering that at least three new candidates would be offered to the electorate by the A.L.P. for the next general elections. He introduce the candidates as comrade Hendy Simon who will contest the St. John's City West seat. Comrade Mauldwyn Joseph for the St. Mary's seat and Comrade Dr. Rodney Williams to take over from his father Comrade Ernest Williams the longest serving politician in the English speaking Caribbean, for the St. Paul Seat. All these comrades are dedicated, young and qualified men and are expected to enhance the A.L.P. state of candidates. It is also expected that a fourth new face would be announced soon to contest the new All Saints East, St. Luke's seat. Meanwhile elections are not due before May, 1984. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 14 Mar 84 p 6]

LIVESTOCK PROBLEMS--Despite the scattered showers of rain that have been falling in several areas of the island, the water situation remains very grave. The water-mains serving several villages of the island have remained dry for several days. People having cisterns and large tanks have had to be rescuing their friends and neighbours by allowing them a bucket or two of water mainly for drinking and cooking, but certainly not for laundry and bathroom use. Animals too are suffering, especially cattle. Several heads of cattle have lost their lives after having stuck themselves up in mud while trying to reach the last remaining mirkey waters in these ponds. Cattle farmers in particular need help at this time. It would appear that there are too many people in Antigua, and particularly in the A.L.P. Government who do not appreciate the

importance of livestock to the economy and well-being of the nation. There are also some influential business people who would prefer to see every head of livestock in the nation drop dead. This would better enable them to profiteer by greater importation of meat and milk products. Livestock farmers play a vital role in this nation. At this time they need in providing food and water for their herds. The A.L.P. Government claims that help from overseas has been requested in these two areas. It is time enough that farmers be given real practical help and not mere PLATITUDES. [Text] [St Johns THE STANDARD in English 25 Feb 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/627

FORMER BLP MP TO CONTEST BY-ELECTION AS INDEPENDENT

Straughn Plans

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Mar 84 p 20

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text] MR. GLENROY STRAUGHN, who won a seat in St. Joseph in the House of Assembly 26 years ago on the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) ticket, will contest the St. Peter seat as an independent when a by-election or a general election is held.

The 57-year-old social worker and former chairman of the Transport Board, in an exclusive interview and responding to why he had now decided to return to active politics, said: "I have never stopped representing people.

"I go to all parts of Barbados carrying out what I consider to be my mission as a representative."

The bearded Mr. Straughn said he foresaw, the disillusionment the people were enduring under the two major political parties. He believes the time has now come to re-enter the fray.

Asked why he did not seek candidature under either of the two political parties, Mr. Straughn said: "I have looked at them over the past 30 years, and they are half dozen of one, and six of the other; it is tweedledum and tweedledee.

"What these parties have done for Barbados is not to preserve and provide constitutional or parliamentary democracy. What they have done is to so operate among themselves to pass on the reins of Government from one to the other, and allow whoever is in Government to operate a semi-fascist state.

"So that", he added, "opinions that are expressed, are controlled by the governing party to appear like heresy, and not as free speech."

The chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee said: "I have maintained my political integrity long enough that I do not have to stain or sully it with membership of either of the two political parties."

But how would he, as an independent, if elected, get measures passed in the House to carry out any pledges he makes to his constituents?

To that question, he asked how many bills and resolutions had been introduced in the House by the Opposition and passed.

He said this suggested two things. One was that the Opposition, as a party, had not been interested in promoting legislation in the interest of the people, but rather, waiting until the people became tired with the Government.

The second, he said, was that the arguments of the Opposition were not forceful enough.

Said Mr. Straughn: "An independent in the House of Assembly can do no less than this, and, indeed, would have to do much more because an independent would not, therefore, be coming in on a party wave."

He added: "An independent stands or falls by strong representation for the constituency. So, an independent and maybe a few independents--would be of more value now in the House of Assembly than either the Government or the Opposition!"

Remarks on Third Party

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Mar 84 p 20

[Text] BARBADIANS can get a third political party after they have proven that people are greater than any party, Mr. Glenroy Straughn said yesterday.

Stressing that people were seeing a need for a third political party, Mr. Straughn said: "There is presently the false impression that only a political party can win an election, and only a party can represent people. But my argument is that the two major political parties, over the past 30 years, have shown how they can misrepresent people."

He said that people had the power to choose their representative. If the people of Barbados, he stated, showed that they had the courage now to stop "the hounds of political party tribalism", then they would be in a position to demand proper representation from any new political organisation.

He said the standard that could be set by an independent in the House of Assembly could be a model of representation needed in a third party.

Mr. Straughn predicted that a third party would receive much support because there was disillusionment with the machinations in the major political parties.

Asked about his desire to represent St. Peter, he said he also represented this constituency when he was a councillor in the now Northern District Council under the defunct local government system even when he was a member of the House for St. Joseph.

1984-85 DRAFT ESTIMATES SUBMITTED TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Revenue, Spending Projections

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The draft estimates for the financial year 1984-85 were laid in the House of Assembly yesterday with Government projecting a deficit of some \$150.7 million.

Government is projecting to spend some \$746.8 million this year.

The projected current revenue is \$596.1 million representing an increase of 17.2 per cent over that for 1983-84.

Current expenditure is estimated at \$565.3 million an increase of 9.7 per cent over the approved estimates for 1983-84. The estimated excess of current revenue over current expenditure has been put at \$30.7 million, and estimated capital expenditure \$181.5 million compared with \$122.8 million for 1983-84.

Debate on the estimates will begin next Monday at 10 a.m. and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Lionel Craig said he was looking forward to an interesting debate.

Mr. Craig said he was sure that members of Parliament were looking forward to the "cut and thrust of the debate."

The debate is expected to last for the entire week following which Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Tom Adams might announce the date for his budgetary proposals.

In giving a breakdown of Capital Expenditure the estimates revealed that the biggest slice will be going to Economic Services. Some \$112.7 million has been allocated to this area.

Some "16.5 million will go to Education; \$11.8 million to Housing and Community Amenities; \$20 million to the General Public Services; \$9 million to Health and \$4.8 million to Defence and Security.

The Capital Estimates for 1984-85 provide for the financing of continuing projects and the starting of new ones. It said that the revised estimates for 1983-84 and those for 1984-85 show an increase of \$60.9 million.

The projected current revenue of \$596.1 million is to be raised through loans and advances, taxes on income profits, taxes on property, taxes on goods and services and taxes on international trade among other revenue raising exercises.

Current Deficit

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Government has projected an overall deficit of more than \$95.1 million at the end of the current financial year which runs until March 31.

This is contained in the summary projection of Government's performance for the fiscal year 1983-84.

In the Draft Estimates laid in the House of Assembly yesterday it was shown that actual current revenue which stood at \$466.2 million last month, was expected to increase by a further 13.2 per cent to reach \$555.7 at the end of this month.

Actual current expenditure is expected to reach \$528.3 million with a projected current account expenditure of \$27.3 million.

CSO: 3298/635

PAPER FINDS FOREIGN POLICY FACING UP TO CARIBBEAN REALITY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] AT the end of last week's meeting of heads of the country's overseas missions, Mr. Louis Tull, the minister of foreign affairs, took the opportunity to declare some new emphases and to point the public nose in certain directions. And not a moment too soon, let it be said.

Mr. Tull's predecessor in office, Mr. Henry Forde, at the first gathering in 1979 of overseas mission heads under the present administration, went to some length to adumbrate the horizons of a foreign policy silhouetted by the realities of a post independent status.

On that occasion he stressed Barbados' commitment to the CARICOM idea as well as the new hemispheric balances and interests which independence demanded and made desirable. Mr. Forde underlined, albeit by delicate suggestion, the diminished influence of the traditional British connection even as the trade figures reflected it and thereby made the point of the inevitable logic of geography.

Mr. Tull has now, in the post-Grenada environment, declared the Government's will and intention to pay more attention to the Caribbean and not only to the CARICOM elements but to the wider regional geography. As minister of culture at the time of Carifesta in 1981, Mr. Tull would have had a ringside seat at the spectacle of the Caribbean cultural pattern and its spread across boundaries of sea and language which had been thought impossible to cross. Even if he had not previously been aware of the crucial importance of a pan-Caribbean vision, the performance of the Cubans and other non-Anglophone participants, and, indeed, their very presence in Barbados would have signalled their own clear message.

All that we know of the Government's strategies and new directions of policy for the Caribbean is what has been gleaned from the hints, some of them broadish, if not broad, which Mr. Tull has let fall. But a wink is as good as a nod and we can expect to see in the coming months a significant reinforcement in our Caribbean diplomatic force.

The Eastern Caribbean States have, through the personality of the prime minister of Dominica, made a powerful statement of their presence and importance in the wake of Grenada and they will not be prepared to be condescended to much longer.

Barbados, that "singular island" whose geographical position once allowed it to pretend, playfully, that it is not Caribbean but Atlantic, that is long experience of British monoculture rendered it "different from", meaning "better than", the rest of the archipelago, has had reality thrust upon it and Mr. Tull's published comments are no more than the Government's response to the summons of that reality.

That response will almost certainly include the establishment of a strong diplomatic presence in Trinidad and Tobago--there is an urgently needed repair job to be done there. A resident representative has already been named but the Grenada turbulence has created a regrettable gap between the intention and its fulfilment.

The response ought also to include a resident presence at or near the headquarters of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in St. Lucia; and, of course, strong missions at Washington and New York to take account of OAS and United Nations interests are of crucial importance.

Mr. Tull's flight plan for the country, of which we have been given only the barest sketch, comes not a year nor a month nor a moment too soon. Ever since that fateful day in September 1961 when Jamaica uttered a resounding No to integration with the eastern states, the need for a new articulation and an abandonment of the old ways has been urgent. Barbados has a role to play which is dictated by the new circumstances and it cannot afford to hesitate in the wings. If this much is not clear now, it never will be.

CSO: 3298/635

GOVERNMENT RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF CABLE TV FOR NOW

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] MINISTER of Information and Culture, Senator Nigel Barrow has ruled out the possibility of cable television being introduced to Barbados at this time, since "it is very expensive to establish and it is very expensive to maintain".

Speaking in the Senate yesterday on a resolution to provide additional land at White Park, St. Michael for redevelopment of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Senator Barrow said that a number of proposals were put before the board of the corporation about the provision of additional television service.

Many of the proposals were for cable, he said, and that system would cost between \$8 million and \$12 million. However, there was one technology which might be applied, in which the figures seemed to be very much better.

That system was known as NBS, for which the conditions necessary, such as signal radius, no forest and no heavy rains were applicable to Barbados.

It also appeared that one NBS channel could be established for as little as \$1/2 million. It would mean, said the minister, that if the figures and the technological data available were correct, television could be expanded by more channels as thought necessary, and therefore meet the demand for an alternative service for which everyone was calling.

The NBS channel, Senator Barrow said, would be within the means of CBC to handle, although "things might be a little tight with them right now."

The cash flow position of the corporation did not indicate that it could carry out its redevelopment programme if it included provision for cable television.

CSO: 3298/636

DRIVE TO CLEAN UP HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] In its ongoing drive for environmental and ecological enhancement, the Ministry of Health is continuing to identify derelict buildings and overgrown lots across Barbados which threaten public health and safety, and affects the appearance of the island.

The demolition and clearing of these derelict buildings and overgrown lots will not only improve the landscape from an aesthetic viewpoint, but more importantly will deprive rodents and other vermin of places where they may hide and breed; this will result in a reduction of the rodent population, and the incidence of leptospirosis, which is a rodent-borne disease, in humans.

A recent report from the Ministry shows that to date 201 notices have been served on the owners of derelict buildings and in 91 cases the buildings have either been demolished or repaired in accordance with the Ministry's requirements. In only three reported instances has the Ministry itself had to demolish the buildings.

The response to the clearing of overgrown vacant lots has been similar with 62 of some 126 owners taking immediate action.

The report noted that considerable progress has been made in the Northern and St. Michael West zones with less activity in St. Michael East and the Southern area.

All property owners who have received notices are urged to take immediate steps to comply with the Ministry of Health's directives.

CSO: 3298/636

BRIEFS

PITT TO CANADA--PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Monday (CANA)--Basil Pitt, Trinidad and Tobago's former envoy to Barbados, has been appointed High Commissioner to Canada, press reports said today. The reports, in the Guardian and Express newspapers could not be immediately confirmed. Tobago-born Pitt, a former Member of Parliament and Attorney-General, was recalled from his Bridgetown posting last October after a diplomatic row related to the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada. Pitt and the Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams differed over the contents of a private meeting. Adams publicly called him a liar but Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers expressed confidence in Pitt, who remained accredited to Eastern Caribbean states. Pitt was born in 1924. Trinidad has so far made no appointment to the Bridgetown High Commission and suspended approval of a new Barbados envoy in Port-of-Spain. Meanwhile the Express reported that Chambers had named Attorney-General Senator Russel Martineau as the new vice-chairman of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) to replace Pitt. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Mar 84 p 1]

SUGAR FACTORY PROBLEMS--Sugar manufacturing at three factories in Barbados stopped for some time yesterday, as Carringtons and Foursquare in St. Philip and Bulkeley in St. George experienced mechanical problems. The management at Carringtons reported yesterday that although the problems had been ironed out, the factory was concentrating on the backlog of canes, while up to late yesterday, the Foursquare Factory was receiving canes at half quota, due to a broken piston rod in the vacuum pump. The Bulkeley Factory in St. George had been experiencing problems with a broken shaft, and these stoppages were creating severe problems to small sugar cane farmers, whose canes had been cut, but were yet to be taken to the factories. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/636

FINAL PORTION OF 20 DECEMBER SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 14 Jan 84 pp 5, 8, 14

[Second and final installment of text of speech from the throne at opening of the Legislative Council on 20 December 1983; for the first installment, see JPRS-LAM-84-034 dated 16 March 1984, pages 57-58]

[Text] On the Occasion of The Opening of The Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands on 20th December, 1983

18. On the international scene, my Government will seek to maintain and, where necessary, strengthen existing relationships with countries and organizations where these bring net benefits to the Territory. Relationships with new entities will be fostered, based on the same criterion. The recently acquired associate membership status in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and pending similar status in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America will be carefully monitored to ascertain whether there are net benefits to the Territory. My Government will not hesitate to withdraw from these actual or pending involvements if the situation warrants such action.

19. In the area of public information, my Government intends to honour its commitment to keep this House and the public fully informed of, and involved in, the planning and execution of its policies and programmes. To this end, my Government will increase the flow of information to Honourable Members. It will also make fuller use of the press and broadcast media than heretofore, and will strengthen the public information arm of the Hon. Chief Minister's Office to enable it to better discharge its assigned functions.

20. My Government is fully aware of the human misery and suffering which natural or man-made disasters can cause to a country that is unprepared for the disruption of social and economic life. Government therefore intends to establish an Office of Disaster Preparedness in order to provide the administrative machinery which will aim at limiting the impacts of disasters by measures within our control. The office will also coordinate national and international relief aid programmes for disaster victims.

21. Turning now to the subject of Education, my Government recognises the need for improvement in this crucial area. My Government intends to review

the educational system, its manpower resources, and its physical and institutional arrangements in order to improve the standard and quality of existing educational programmes. My Government also intends to strengthen guidance counselling services and to continue to participate actively in appropriate regional projects which offer benefits to the Territory.

22. In keeping with my Government's plans to improve the educational system, it is intended to formulate and implement a National Information System encompassing libraries, archives and museums and vigorously to seek technical assistance in areas of training, consultancy services, and equipment. It is also appropriate at this time to pay tribute to the Virgin Islands Historical Society for the establishment of a Folk Museum and for focussing public attention on the values of the historical and cultural heritage of the people of these islands. Such activities will continue to receive the support of my Government.

23. Medical care is a subject of great importance to this Territory. It will be the policy of my Government to provide a comprehensive health service with special attention being given to the handicapped, disabled persons, senior citizens and the less fortunate members of the community.

24. In the field of environmental health, my Government will continue to give priority to mosquito eradication, to the prevention of environmental pollution and to garbage collection. Special attention will also be given to disease surveillance, health education and preventive medicine. My Government will pursue investigations into the threat posed by the use of the material known as asbestos in construction within the Territory and will take any action that it considers necessary to protect the health of the community. Particular attention will also be given to promoting sports activities at the national, regional and international levels.

25. My Government will critically review all existing plans and policies for agricultural development with a view to drawing up a meaningful and practical development programme for this very vital and basic economic sector. Particular emphasis will be placed on improving services to farmers and fishermen with a view to improving their overall skills and productivity. The provision of water facilities for expanded crop and livestock production, the training of local staff and the establishment of sound marketing mechanisms for all the sectors will also receive special attention, as will also urgent measures to abate overstocking of pastures.

26. My Government will make efforts to draw up and implement an appropriate development scheme for the management of marine and coastal zones, including the marine parks and protected areas.

27. My Government will re-evaluate land-use patterns and policies with a view to allocating lands to the best possible activity compatible with the overall development strategy. In the case of Crown Lands, a more equitable basis for allocation of land for residential purposes will be established. Specific attention will be paid to the securing of land and home ownership by British Virgin Islanders, in particular, the issuance of Crown Grants and titles to the residents of Anegada for lands previously occupied by them.

28. In the field of land surveying, my Government will place emphasis on overseas training of officers to enable them to cope effectively with the range of subjects which now demand the Survey Department's attention, and special efforts will be made to help the indigenous population to clarify doubtful land titles.

29. My Government is determined to meet the needs of the Territory for electrical power so that the rate of economic growth will be sustained. Site studies are being carried out to determine the area most suitable for location of the new power station, and these studies will pay special attention to environmental, social, engineering and economic considerations.

30. My Government contemplates becoming a member of the Caribbean Restricted Postal Union which promises to be beneficial in the development of our Postal Services. My Government will also re-examine the postal and philatelic services to ensure that revenue is being maximised.

31. The improvement and development of Beef Island International Airport and, in particular, the aviation and airport facilities, will be accorded the priority they justly deserve by my Government in order to meet the rising demands caused by the increases in aviation and passenger traffic which are foreseen. My Government remains committed not only to expanding the Territory's water distribution system, but also to ensuring that water quality is of the highest standard achievable.

32. Subject to the overall review of priorities mentioned earlier, my Government will continue the improvement of the Territory's physical infrastructure with emphasis being placed on road construction, maintenance and development in areas where there are population centres. Particular attention will also be paid to the improvement of Port Purcell and its facilities to accommodate cruise ships and visitor traffic, and to the continued improvement of West End Harbour.

33. My Government will continue the rehabilitation programme for prisoners. The success of a prisoner in the recent CSC English examination papers is worthy of special mention and indicates the merit of this service. Ways and means will also be explored to enhance the usefulness of prior life through useful work programmes.

34. My Government is committed to the detection and prevention of crime and will continue to place special emphasis on the recruitment and training of police officers. Simultaneously, it is hoped to develop a public awareness programme with special emphasis on crime prevention and the importance of utilizing simple security measures. Police transport will also be given high priority in order to facilitate quick responses for criminal investigation.

35. My Government is seeking assistance from international agencies for the purpose of developing its telecommunications policy and evaluating its future relationship with Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited, the sole provider of the telecommunications service.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of the Legislative Council

36. My Government looks forward confidently to the New Year and wishes to reaffirm to all citizens, the determination to continue to provide a stable, social and economic environment, and to remain committed to improving the quality of life for all.

37. I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon you and your counsels.

CSO: 3298/628

CHIEF MINISTER REPORTS TO COUNCIL ON U.S. CGCED TALKS

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 3 Mar 84 pp 2, 7

[Text] "Mr Speaker,

During the week of February 13th I attended the Sixth Meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development (CGCED) which was convened at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D. C.. By the way of background, Sir, the CGCED is a mechanism to co-ordinate and strengthen external assistance to Caribbean countries. The meeting provides a forum in which donors and recipients discuss individual country development programmes, as well as the work carried on throughout the year by participants, as a group and as individuals. Donors at the meeting pledged their financial support for various projects as appropriate. The Group was created in December 1977 under the sponsorship of the World Bank, in association with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.

"For the first time in our three years of attendance at the CGCED, a Special meeting was convened specifically on the British Virgin Islands. I was given the opportunity to outline this territory's economic strategy for the next few years to representatives of donor countries and international agencies. Before discussing our "shopping list" of project with the donors, I pointed out to them among other things, that tourism would remain the mainstay of the economy, with increased local linkages and some diversifications being developed. We received high praise from all the donors for the documentation we prepared, and for this country's excellent record in project preparation and execution, which was reiterated in the Chairman's closing statement at the final session.

"But, Mr. Speaker, while we were appreciative of the good words, we were naturally even more pleased with the positive response of the donors: Our country programme covered a variety of projects, including airport development, roads, water supply, credit facilities, skills development and technical assistance. The Canadian International Development Agency, (CIDA), immediately pledged grant funds in the amount of \$2 million to be utilized for bringing Beef Island Airport to the standard necessary for the safe and efficient handling of current air traffic. We expect a visit from a Canadian team to finalize the necessary Agreement within the next month or so. The indications are

also that Mission Administered Funds (MAF) which have been granted to the territory in the amount of approximately \$100,000 per annum to date, will be increased some 5 fold in 1985 to \$500,000.

"The CDB representative stated that over the last 12 years or so, \$6.3 million had been approved in loan funds to the BVI and in response to our request that CDB explore the possibility of increasing its loan portfolio to the territory replied that the bank is currently processing a new line of credit for 1984-1988. I took the opportunity to also inform the bank that certain projects for which loan funds had been approved were being reviewed by my Administration. Dr. Bernard Yankey, Director of Projects, will be visiting the territory in early March for further discussion in this regard. As I pointed out in my statement to donors, our development programme has been trimmed down to essential and viable projects constructed to achieve the objective of greater productivity and to improve the quality of life for all BVI citizens.

"I was also gratified by the response of our oldest donor, the British Development Division. Mr. Ken Woolverton, Head of the Division, was extremely supportive of our programme and pledged to support projects in infrastructural development to the fullest extent possible.

"Promise of technical assistance was received from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in areas of energy, education, manpower assessment, economic development planning and tourism.

"In the area of energy, CDB affirmed BVI's eligibility to participate in the proposed Regional Energy Action Programme (REAP). The programme which will be funded to the tune of \$22.6 million over a 5 year period contains components such as tariff problems, pricing issues and the provision of common managerial and technical services for utilities in the region. Under the project, alternative energy sources will be assessed as well as the strengthening of institutions in the energy sector.

"Two other donors, the United States Government and the European Development Fund (EDF), expressed interest in our programme although there were no immediate commitments. The US stated that they were constrained by the relatively high per capita income of the territory, but promised to study our programme thoroughly. In my opening statement I took the opportunity to mention our concern with regard to the uncertainty in the yachting industry caused by the court ruling in the Kelly case, now commonplace, and achieved promise of assistance in getting this matter resolved from the US representative at the meeting. The other donor, the European Development Fund (EDF), must await the finalization of Lome III later this year, which represents the total allocation to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) before making any commitment to individual countries. Nevertheless, Mr. Johan Ter Har, the delegate to the Eastern Caribbean will be visiting us in the next month to discuss our requests for the coming year and to review existing projects funded by EDF.

"I also took the opportunity in Washington to call on senior officials in State, Treasury and Commerce departments including Mr. Langhorne Motley,

Assistant Secretary of State for Caribbean and Latin American Affairs and Mr. Jon Rosenbaum, Assistant US Trade Representative, to discuss matters of mutual interest including the CBI and the future of the charter boat industry. I also met with Mr. Robert Hayne, Director of the FCC and other officials regarding the matter of frequency allocations to the BVI. This was necessary in view of the strong competition between countries for the few frequencies remaining for television and FM broadcasting in this area.

"Obviously, my Ministry has it's work cut out for the next several weeks as the necessary follow-up work is carried out. As I indicated above, I was extremely gratified by the positive response received and will do everything to maintain this strong interest in the territory's development on the part of the donors."

CSO: 3298/628

CACERES ON LOANS NEEDED FOR 1985 DEBT RESCHEDULING

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p B-1

[Article by special correspondent Ciro Quintana]

[Text] The trend in international interest rates and the price of copper are the variables that will have a decisive impact on the performance of the Chilean economy in the medium term, German banks feel.

This view emerged at the meetings that Finance Minister Carlos Caceres and his party, which consists, among others, of Central Bank President Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, held today first with representatives of the Bundesbank and then with delegates from around 50 German, Austrian and Scandinavian banks.

In spite of the uneasiness that the two variables might cause, the bankers seemed quite positive about the policies that Chile is pursuing, both to reschedule its overseas debts and to adjust to new international economic conditions

Today's session began with a meeting with representatives of the Bundesbank (the German Central Bank), led by its vice president, H. Schlessinger. At the meeting, Caceres spent more than an hour giving a thorough assessment of the recent performance of Chile's economy and in return received the German Central Bank's view of the world economy.

In the words of Minister Caceres, "the support that we found for the policies that Chile has implemented to adjust to the new world economic conditions has been highly gratifying."

"The vice president of the Bundesbank, Dr Schlessinger, voiced his high regard for the efforts that Chile is making and felt that this should be a major reason why German banks ought to take part in the financing that we are requesting," Caceres said.

Fifty Bankers

After his meeting with representatives of the Bundesbank, the Chilean minister presided over a gathering of bankers at the offices of the

Dresdner Bank It was attended by representatives of about 50 of the most important banks in the FRG, Austria, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

The Dresdner Bank is acting as the coordinator of the Chilean foreign debt rescheduling for this region of the financial world

Once again Caceres had to give a complete rundown of the performance of Chile's economy in 1983 and the government's forecast for this year. The uncertainties over the trends in interest rates and copper prices were raised at this meeting as well.

It should be borne in mind that in Chile's case a one-point swing in international interest rates could represent about \$190 million a year, while a one cent change in the price of copper is equivalent to some \$28 million a year.

The members of the Chilean delegation reported that after the minister's presentation a variety of questions were asked about economic and social issues in Chile.

When Caceres was asked about this, he replied that most of the questions focused on the performance of the Chilean economy in the medium run and on the impact that world economic variables will have on it. In particular, the bank representatives asked what the country's financial requirements would be in the event that interest rates and copper prices evolved adversely

Caceres emphasized, in any event, that "the attitude at the bankers' meeting towards what Chile has done to straighten out its economy was very favorable, and I say this without excessive optimism "

The minister also indicated that the feeling among the banks is that because Chile has made gains in rescheduling its debt and in internal adjustments, the conditions for the international financing that the country will need next year could be different from what they have been till now

1985 Rescheduling

"This means," Caceres noted, "that we could turn to a group of banks on the international market to secure the \$300 to \$400 million in new loans that the country will need next year."

In answer to a specific question from "Economia y Negocios," the minister stated that this September or October a final decision would be made about how to repay the foreign debts that fall due in 1985 and 1986.

Caceres noted that "the issue was analyzed briefly with the committee in New York last January, and we decided that the issue would be analyzed in depth in the aforementioned months."

When asked about whether Chile might need additional loans, on top of what has already been agreed to, the minister replied that the financing of operations is very difficult, especially in the medium term

"Hence Chile's efforts to turn to international lending agencies such as the World Bank, the IDB and others. I have reports that the recent visit of IDB representatives was quite constructive, inasmuch as several projects submitted for their consideration were received well initially. Access to these sources of financing should enable Chile to secure additional funds."

The last item on the minister's agenda in Germany was a meeting with the financial press in Frankfurt, the FRG's financial heart. At it, both Caceres and Errazuriz outlined the current status of the country's economic variables.

The delegation will head for London tomorrow, Saturday, where it will have a heavy agenda on Monday.

8743

CSO: 3348/334

TEXTILE PRODUCTION UP IN 1983, OUTLOOK FOR 1984

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp C-1, C-4

[Text] Textiles were one of the industries that recovered the strongest last year from 1982, with production up 26.3 percent and sales 16.8 percent higher.

Although these are fine results for 1983, they represent only a partial recovery in terms of 1969 levels.

This was what the president of the Textile Institute of Chile, Marcelo Zalaquett Numair, told EL MERCURIO when he was asked about the sector's economic performance last year and its prospects in the coming months.

Zalaquett also emphasized the rise in employment. He pointed out in this regard that manufacturers of yarn, fabric and garments employed around 46,000 persons in 1983.

This is an increase of about 5,000 jobs over 1982, which in Zalaquett's judgment "reflects the acknowledged greater activity in these categories."

"Nevertheless, we are still quite a bit below the normal employment level for textiles and garments, because according to the preliminary census of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) in 1979, the sector used to employ 67,000 workers," he explained.

He added that the census was taken before June 1979, when the single 10 percent tariff went into effect.

The tariff and the maintenance of the 39-peso-to-the-dollar exchange rate were what, in his opinion, "caused widespread bankruptcies in the sector, because companies were completely defenseless in the face of unfair foreign competition."

He also remarked that unless there are substantial changes in the country's overall situation, textile industries would continue operating at 60 percent capacity, with some exceptional firms at 75 percent.

This percentage will make possible higher production and sales and more jobs in the anticipation that the appropriate authorities will provide greater incentives.

Production Level

In assessing the textile industry's performance last year, the institute president stressed the rises in both output and sales, noting, however, that they were still below the 1969 levels

He explained that the sector is producing about as much as in 1969. With just three percent annual growth from 1969 to the present, "our output would be up 51 percent higher than 14 years ago "

He said that his estimate took into consideration the minimal development of the industry in the 1960's and the natural population increase between 1969 and 1983.

Stable Demand

When asked about the prospects of his sector for this year, Marcelo Zalaquett noted that the Textile Institute's authorities envision stable demand and, unlike 1983, no major upswing in sales.

The forecast is based on the fact that last year's performance represented just "a partial recovery from our major decline in the 1979-1982 period, when because of an undervalued dollar, a 10 percent tariff and no compensation for overseas subsidies, we were the hardest hit domestic industry, inasmuch as textiles and ready-made clothing are subsidized all over the world because they can provide enormous numbers of jobs in proportion to investment capital "

He stated that if basic conditions remain the same, such as a tariff surcharge of at least 15 percent on subsidized imports, a minimum general tariff of 20 percent, a realistic exchange rate and the current level of consumption, the level of activity this year could be comparable to last year's.

The grounds for this forecast are that textile goods imports are readily replaced and that because the supply of imported textiles will shrink, more Chileans will buy domestically made fabrics and garments.

Nevertheless, the institute president voiced his concern over the inflow of subsidized textile goods

Jobs

When asked about the actual possibility that the sector can employ more people this year, he replied that textile manufacturers are confident that they can as the economy recovers over the next few months, as the authorities have predicted.

The same conditions that made possible the upswing in 1983 must persist, however. If both these elements are present, textile manufacturers would, in his judgment, be in a position to continue hiring more manpower slowly but surely.

He also referred to internal developments, pointing out that even though interest rates have fallen to an average of 2.4 percent a month, they are still high for financing the red ink that textile firms are recording, above all if we bear in mind that the suggested rate is 0.9 percent and the consumer price index was negative in February.

Tariff Surcharges

The business leader underscored that the 15 percent tariff surcharge that has been in effect since November 1982 on subsidized textile and clothing imports has been a major factor in the recovery by domestic manufacturers

It has been complemented by the positive impact of the 20 percent tariff and the rise in the exchange rate.

He stated that the surcharge, "although it offsets only partially the foreign subsidies, which range from 30 to 50 percent in this industry, has discouraged imports in our line of products "

He indicated that in spite of the positive impact that these measures to partially offset overseas subsidies have had, there is still concern since they will be in force for only 180 days. At that point, domestic producers must again submit their petition to the authorities and prove that the imports in question are still being subsidized and are harming them.

Profits

Marcelo Zalaquett described as "positive" the measures that President Pinochet announced for the production sector, because, in his words, "they provide financial relief for small business, especially by lowering interest rates in rescheduling up to \$10 million of their debt."

"It is to be hoped that in addition to the aforementioned aid for one group of debtors, the president's initiative leads to an across-the-board decline in interest rates to a level compatible with international rates," he stated.

8743

CSO: 3348/335

BRIEFS

CODELCO PROFITS FOR 1983--CODELCO [Copper Corporation] recorded profits of \$220.699 million for fiscal year 1983. This represents an increase of 37.46 percent over 1982, when profits totaled \$160.554 million. The corporation's balance sheet as of 31 December 1983 was published yesterday in the press. In its final section the auditing firm Langton Clarke asserts that the financial statements it examined accurately reflect CODELCO's financial condition as of the date mentioned. According to the statements of earnings, operating income totaled \$620.377 million. Nonoperating earnings totaled \$528.253 million before taxes. If we subtract \$307.554 million in taxes (Law 13,196, income tax, surtax and additional tax), the net profit for the fiscal year comes to \$220.699, at 87.51 pesos to the dollar. CODELCO actually paid \$678.5 million in taxes to the Treasury, because in addition to the above levies, it was also subject to the value added tax, customs duties and others. The balance sheet lists the corporation's total assets at \$3,152,657,000 (which is equal to liabilities plus capital), up 7.26 percent from 1982, when they totaled \$2,939,202,000. Commenting on the corporation's performance, its executives said that it resulted from a rise in the price of copper (67.7 cents [US] a pound). CODELCO produced 1,012,000 tons in 1982 and 1,033,000 tons last year. [Text] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 17 Mar 84 Informe Economico Section p 1] 8743

CSO: 3348/335

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW TAX CERTIFICATE TO PROMOTE EXPORTS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 7-B

[Text] The government is about to provide a new and vigorous impetus to Colombian exports, other than coffee, through significant increases in fiscal incentives for these exports, ranging from 68 to 100 percent, by way of the new Tax Return Certificate, CERT.

At any moment the government will issue two decrees whcih will regulate and establish the CERT levels to promote the Standard Law for Foreign Trade.

The respective documents have already been signed by the ministers of development and finance, and are undergoing final consideration by President Betancur, it was officially reported.

One of these decrees regulates the procedures pertaining to CERT itself. CERT replaces the Tax Credit Certificate (CAT) and provides mechanisms to allow flexibility in its application.

The other decree indicates the new levels to be granted to the various products benefitting from this incentive.

Currently exporters receive a maximum of 15 percent from CAT. The new arrangement raises that ceiling to 25 and 30 percent for specific products or line of products which encounter problems in entering international markets, sources said.

Also, levels will be established for consumer nations, taking into account market trends, commeeacial exchange and other factors of vital importance.

As it was pointed out, the increased levels concerning this incentive seek to compensate considerably for the reevaluation of the peso against currencies of neighboring countries--particularly the Venezuelan Bolivar--which have undergone a process of devaluation, detrimental to the Colombian economy.

At the same time, this system eliminates the possibility of a widespread devaluation, which has developed in some sectors in view of the exchange imbalance with respect to Venezuela.

With maximum levels of 15 percent, CAT would represent a fiscal cost to the state of more than \$8 billion. Now, with CERT's 30-percent ceiling, that cost increases, but it avoids other measures which would be more traumatic for the overall economy, it was explained.

One of the characteristics of the new CERT will be that of preventing certain industrialized countries, particularly the United States, from possibly using this instrument as an excuse for restricting imports of Colombian products by imposing countervailing and paracustoms duties.

Concerning trade with that nation, private and official sources have reported that the U.S. customs authorities continue to carry to an extreme the control and inspection of merchandise and passengers to prevent narcotics from entering the United States.

This activity is now being undertaken by a greater number of personnel, and to a large extent this has prevented considerable harm to exporters.

There is no official data available on the total number or volume of losses which the U.S. custom measures may have caused, although they are certainly hindering the commercial flow to that market.

CSO: 3348/342

FORUM TO PROMOTE FOREIGN INVESTMENT SET FOR JULY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 84 pp 1-C, 2-C

[Text] The National Planning Department has accepted 104 projects to be presented at the Investors' Forum with the cooperation of PROEXPO (Export Promotion Fund), the technical assistance of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the UN Development Program (UNDP). The forum will be held in Bogota from 2 through 5 July.

The goal of the forum, which was given the final go-ahead last Friday with the signing of an agreement between the organizing entities and UN organizations, is to promote industrial investment and cooperation by attracting foreign resources, to implement specific industrial projects in the country and, subsequently, to gain new foreign markets.

EL TIEMPO reported that this event will be attended by some 100 industrialists from the United States, Europe and Japan, invited by UNIDO to acquaint themselves with the projects to be presented by Colombian industrialists. The forum will provide the opportunity for a detailed discussion of the projects and the cooperation required to carry them out.

In order to participate in the forum, Colombian entrepreneurs must present their projects to the National Planning Department, by completing the forms which UNIDO has designed for this purpose. As of last Friday the number of accepted projects had reached 104.

The National Planning Department's main criteria for accepting the projects are: 1. That they contribute to import substitution; 2. That they help to promote exports and 3. That they promote the production of capital goods.

The deadline for submitting the forms is the last day of March. A UNIDO expert has been made available as a consultant in processing the forms. Projects received after that date will be handled accordingly, but their efficient promotion cannot be guaranteed, according to forum organizers.

The National Planning Department and PROEXPO will hold a seminar on 7 May designed to provide the Colombian entrepreneurs with tools for a more efficient negotiations. Permitted to attend this seminar, according to the promoters, will be all those who may have presented specific projects, as well

as those who, although lacking detailed studies, might have an idea which may be attractive to foreign investors.

With the aim of promoting the forum and of attracting the attention of the investors, the chief of the National Planning Department recently visited Houston, Miami and New York, at the invitation of UNIDO. In the next few days he will travel to Japan and to several European nations for the same purpose.

EL TIEMPO has received privileged information concerning the regional and sectorial distribution of the 104 projects which have reportedly been accepted by the National Planning Department as of last Friday.

The distribution of the projects by city is as follows: Bogota (20), Cali (19), Medellin (16), Barranquilla (10), Neiva (10), Pereira (7), Buenaventura (6), Cucuta (4), Popayan (3), Manizales (3), Bucaramanga (2), Chaparral (2), Pasto (1) and Armenia (1).

On the sectorial level, most of the projects presented relate to the manufacturing industry, totalling 70 projects. The distribution among the remaining sectors is as follows: Agriculture and livestock (2), agricultural industry (12), mining (6), construction (1), commerce (4), tourism (1), transportation (3) and services provided for enterprises and social projects (5).

Concerning the manufacturing projects, their distribution by product line is as follows: food products (22), textiles (6), wood (6), paper (2), chemicals (13), nonmetallic minerals (6), basic metals industries (6) and the metalworks sector (11).

The forum has been designed as an important mechanism for attracting foreign investment and it forms part of an offensive launched by the present administration for achieving this end.

CSO: 3348/342

FEDESARROLLO PREDICTS 4 PERCENT INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 84 pp 1-C, 3-C

[Article by Jose Fernando Lopez]

[Text] FEDESARROLLO [Federation for Development] experts forecast a growth rate of 4 percent in industrial production for the first half of 1984.

Six months ago they were among the few who would dare to predict a quick recovery for the nation's industry. Based on the results of their Business Survey, the experts maintained--in the leading article of the July edition of the journal COYUNTURA ECONOMICA--that there was "an improvement in the 'business climate' indicator and, in general, in corporate managers' expectations which, if they remain unchanged, might allow [us] to expect a recovery in industrial production during the second half of the year."

And apparently that is just what has happened. Industrial production, which in the first half of 1983 had shown the worst performance in recent years (-4.2 percent), ended the year at a level similar to that of 1982 (-0.2 percent, according to DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics]; not significantly different from zero, according to FEDESARROLLO). This means that in the second half of the year a significant recovery was observed, although certainly not in general terms.

Among the factors which have influenced this recovery, according to FEDESARROLLO analysts, are the reduction in food prices--which permitted a recomposition in the demand for consumer goods favorable to industrial products--, the significant growth in consumer purchasing power in the public sector during the second half of the year--thanks to the expansion of the government's regular line of credit and economic recovery credit rates--and the substantial improvement in the foreign trade balance--accompanied by a significant increase in the coffee producers purchasing power. These last two variables, in particular, are considered by FEDESARROLLO analysts to be essential factors in explaining the recent trend in productive activity--they have identified and are studying, as well, two short subcycles over the last 3 years which coincide with the behavior of these variables.

Business Expectations

The change in economic conditions, which began to take shape at the beginning of the second 4-month period of last year, may have been rapidly perceived by merchants and industrialists--especially those representing the sectors benefitting from the increased demand.

Month by month, according to its analysts, the FEDESARROLLO survey began to show positive results in both sectors.

In the commercial sector, the businessmen's opinions began to coincide with the growth observed in sales, in the reduction of inventories--which had been considerably built up over earlier periods--and in the positive change that was taking place in the general "climate" of this sector's activity.

The industrial sector had similar results. As a consequence of the commercial sector's increase in sales, purchase orders to the industrial sector began to increase. Initially those orders were fulfilled with finished products from the industrial sector--the largest volume ever since FEDESARROLLO began its industrial survey--and, later--by a lag of 3 to 4 months--with production increases.

This new situation, as in the case of the merchants, produced a rapid growth--a sign of considerable improvement--in the "business climate" variable.

At the end of 1983 stocks of finished products in the commercial sector had been greatly reduced and those in the industrial sector had diminished, even below normal levels--from the businessmen's point of view. Meanwhile, purchase orders submitted to enterprises continued to increase.

Good Prospects

The combination of factors already mentioned--increased demand and the need to restock inventories--has led the FEDESARROLLO analysts to foresee a growth in industrial production for the first half of the year similar to that mentioned--that is, for the industrial complex, since it is evident that considerable problems still persist in many sectors.

This forecast is also supported by the performance of the "business climate" variable, both in the commercial and industrial sectors. It has been statistically proven--in Colombia and in other countries where the business survey is applicable--that the tendencies shown by this variable--which summarizes the impressions of industrialists and merchants concerning its upcoming activity and the prospects for the following 6 months--emerge with relative precision before those tendencies shown by actual variables, especially production and sales.

If this were true, industrial production should continue to grow, at least in the first half of this year.

How Long Will Good Fortune Last?

The foregoing does not mean that recovery is assured.

In the opinion of FEDESARROLLO analysts, one of the factors clouding the horizon is the problem of financing the fiscal deficit. For several months FEDESARROLLO has been stating that this year the fiscal deficit could be over 160 billion pesos, while finances secured to cover that deficit amount to less than 120 billion pesos--including the usual line of credit and economic recovery rates. If there is a loss of resources and a halt in public consumption, recovery may stall, analysts contend. Under those circumstances economic activity might even decrease once again, initiating a new recessionary subcycle.

In the opinion of other observers--who remain skeptical concerning figures on industrial growth, although they recognize the recovery of certain sectors--this year the recovery, if there is one, will run into a general climate of distrust which has resulted from the country's deteriorating political and social situation.

These are observers who ask: "If I had the money, would I be willing to invest it in the country?"

For everyone's sake, the ideal would be that in 6 months the answer would be "yes" and that the figures would confirm the experts' predictions.

CSO: 3348/343

BRIEFS

MEXICAN REFINANCING--Jesus Silva Herzog, Mexico's secretary of finance and public credit, announced in San Jose on 24 February that Mexico has agreed to refinance the 30 percent portion of Costa Rica's debt to Mexico that involves oil prospecting and drilling. The amount, \$10 million, will be payable over a 20-year term at new and lower interest rates. A Costa Rican delegation will travel to Mexico soon to formalize the agreement, per Silva Herzog's request. [Summary] [PA201855 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 25 Feb 84 pp 1, 4 PA]

RURAL GUARD DIRECTOR DISMISSED--Government Minister Alfonso Carro has decided to dismiss Colonel Rigoberto Badilla Monge, director general of the Rural Assistance Guard, from his post in view of the problems existing between Badilla and his superiors. [Summary] [PA200352 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 5]

NEW POLITICAL PARTY--Yesterday the leaders of the new political group "Democratic Popular Party" [Partido Popular Democratico--PODE] visited the Electoral Registry to present their incorporation papers. The new group's motto is "for an authentic christian democracy." [Summary] [PA202305 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 2 PA]

TECHNICAL AID FROM FRG--At the end of negotiations on technical and financial aid programs, an FRG government mission and the Costa Rican government signed a 900-million colon cooperation agreement. The FRG will finance the construction of a workshop in Limon for the repair and maintenance of the railroad. It will also grant an 11-million DM loan for training programs of the National Apprenticeship Institute. The cooperation agreement includes 11.5 million DM for expansion and improvement of the Limon pier. [Summary] [PA161607 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 84 PA]

CSO: 3248/507

COMMEMORATIVE COINS TO BE MINTED FOR NICARAGUA

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Jose M. Norniella]

[Text] A contract to mint three coins for the 50th anniversary of the death of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino was signed yesterday in the Cuban Mint in the capital.

This is the first minting of commemorative coins by the ECA [Cuban Mint] ordered by another country. The Cuban specialists and workers are taking on a great responsibility because the design of these collectors' items for Nicaragua is a task of artistic beauty. The coins will have contrasting high relief, which is not commonly found on coins of this kind.

The obverse face of one of the coins will have the likeness of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino and another will show the house where he was born. The third will have the faces of Sandino and Generals Estrada and Umanzor, who were murdered along with the Nicaraguan hero while fighting against Yankee intervention on 21 February 1934. On the reverse face the three coins will have the coat of arms of Nicaragua.

The coins minted in gold will have a face value of 1,000 cordobas and those minted in silver will have a face value of 500 cordobas.

The contract was signed by Rene Ramirez, the director of the ECA, and by Guillermo Vega, the treasurer of the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

After the signing of the document, Ramirez stated that it was a great honor for Nicaragua to have been the first country to place such an order with the Cuban Mint. He said that the ECA workers were committed to delivering the highest quality coin they had ever minted, since it was for one of Cuba's brother nations.

Guillermo Vega acknowledged the great effort the specialists had to make to complete the acrylic molds in such a short time and he stated that without the efforts of all the workers of the ECA, the contract could not have been completed.

12351

CSO: 3248/495

FOREIGN MINISTRY REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SAHARAN CAUSE

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] In recent days new military action has been taken by the Moroccan monarchy against the Saharan patriots. Encouraged by increasing U.S. military assistance, the monarchy has turned a deaf ear to the international community and is moving away from a peaceful solution to the conflict created by its colonial domination.

More than 8 years ago, in open violation of the standards of international law, Morocco invaded the territory of West Sahara and proclaimed its annexation.

During those 8 years and since the declaration of the RASD, the Saharan people, led by their vanguard, the Polisario Front, have waged a heroic struggle against the invader. Thanks to the courage they have demonstrated, they have managed to liberate most of the national territory. In addition, they have received support for their just aspiration to self-determination and independence from the international community, particularly from the OAU, the NOAL [Non-Aligned Movement] and the UN.

In June 1983 the 19th summit conference of the OAU approved a resolution which demanded the initiation of direct negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco, which would make it possible to hold a referendum on the self-determination of the Saharan people. That agreement was endorsed by the Un at its 38th session.

Nonetheless, encouraged by the United States and other imperialist countries, Morocco, rather than complying with these important international agreements, has launched a new military offensive in which it is attempting in vain to quash the heroic struggle of the people of the RASD.

Cuba reiterates its support for the just Saharan cause and calls upon the peoples and governments of the world, in particular those of Africa, to denounce the maneuvers by Morocco, which intends to continue denying the courageous people of the RASD their legitimate right to self-determination and independence.

At the same time Cuba expresses its concern that the behavior of the government of Morocco poses a risk to all of North Africa, since the Saharan conflict could spread to other countries of the region.

DETAILS ON PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION IN SUGAR MILLS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 7 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Juan Varela Perez]

[Text] The consumption of oil for the manufacture of raw sugar continues to be centered in a single refinery: Manuel Martinez Prieto Refinery in Havana.

It used 180,320 gallons in the last 10 days, slightly more than during the second 10 days of January and 11,864 gallons more than during the same period in 1983.

Once again all the oil consumed in the country is accounted for by Havana, since the Manuel Martinez Prieto refinery was the only one that needed to use that fuel as an energy source.

For the second 10-day period in a row, this mill-refinery alone used more oil than all the other plants. During the 53 days of the harvest it "burned" 555,378 gallons, which represents a consumption rate of 1,048 gallons per 24 hours of operation.

But there is more: 67 percent of the oil used to produce raw sugar this season corresponds to the Manuel Martinez Prieto plant.

Below is a table of use (up to 31 January).

	GALLONS CONSUMED	% OF THE TOTAL
Havana	555,723	67
Matanzas	4,040	1
Camaguey	65,060	8
Holguin	56,213	7
Santiago de Cuba	143,508	17
TOTAL:	824,544	100

Although the Manuel Martinez Prieto plant is located in the City of Havana, for accounting purposes in the sugar industry it is analyzed as part of Havana's account.

The coming days constitute a real challenge for this collective enterprise.

BRIEFS

ABANDONED REFORMED FARMS REACTIVATED--Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) have reactivated 13 farms participating in the Agrarian Reform process in San Vicente Department. This was reported by the agronomist Luis Alberto Landaverde, MAG regional chief in San Vicente, during a meeting of the Sectorial Agrarian Advisory Committee (CCAS), advisory body made up of directors and assistant directors, which the Minister Miguel Muysshondt moved to that city to be informed of governmental activities in that conflictive area as well as the progress of the projects being carried out within a comprehensive economic reactivation plan directed by the National Commission for the Reconstruction of Affected Areas (CONARA). Landaverde said to the CCAS that the reactivation of the 13 farms, some of which were abandoned and others partially worked and which have given land to numerous displaced persons especially those from the eastern part of the country, is part of a range of projects. He pointed out as an example the granting of more than 550 credits, some 3 million colons in all, which helped more than 3,000 families in agricultural and other types of activities, in the traditional as well as the reformed sector. He also emphasized that projects have been carried out like reforestation, soil conservation, the irrigation so necessary in the summer to increase the production of vegetables, control of infectious diseases in collaboration with the health [ministry], assistance to cattle raising and other operations which need a considerable work force. He added that training has also been taken into account in order to implement various development programs. [Excerpts] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp 2, 15]

NEW FRG AMBASSADOR--Henning Dodenberg, the new FRG ambassador to El Salvador, has presented his credentials to Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena. [Summary] [PA201524 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2231 GMT 16 Mar 84 PA]

CSO: 3248/509

POLITICAL LEADERS ON REFORMS, FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp 5, 87

[Text] The Second National Political Forum began at 1000 hours yesterday morning (Sunday) at the El Dorado Hotel. The event was organized by the Association of Newswomen of Guatemala (AMPEG) and enjoyed the participation of prominent politicians from all the country's parties.

Newswoman Atala Valenzuela moderated the forum and posed the questions that participants were to answer. The first of these questions concerned the genesis of the violence in Guatemala and solutions to that violence.

Old guard revolutionary leader Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras was the first to answer the question on violence, which is the fruit of the exclusion of the great masses of the people, for the government has failed to take workers and peasants into account, he said.

Napoleon Alfaro from the PR [Revolutionary Party] and Danilo Barillas from the FCD [expansion unknown] emphasized that it is the economic situation, the lack of work, culture and opportunities for low income groups, as well as injustice and the abuse of power that are the causes of violence in the country.

Jorge Carpio Nicolle, leader of the UCN [presumably National Civic Union], said that the country has large groups of people who are left out politically and that the very constitution encouraged that exclusion. "Consequently, we must have the participation of all groups in national politics, for they are the political, economic or social variable. That is why we must work on a constitution that excludes no one and on the formation of a government platform serving the development of Guatemala."

Representing Christian Democrats, Catalina Soberanis basically attributed the wave of violence to unemployment and the country's economic crisis, adding that the creation of jobs is urgent. "It is also necessary to re-channel and redirect policies followed with persons who have violated the law. The national army must change its policy of national security and end its attitude of prepotency."

Rodolfo Dougherty, representing the PNR [Reformist National Party], attributed the violence to the excessive growth of authoritarianism, which is not only

found in the army, but in all areas of life and what we do. We do not trust our neighbors. Democracy implies broad-mindedness and pluralism. We must therefore work to give real representation even to the smallest communities in the country.

Teacher Felix Zarazua Patzon said that as the representative of the excluded groups, he believes in the need to seek unity, forgetting the narrow group interests that are the causes of violence. It is necessary to leave aside individualism and put an end to the exclusion of groups. Violence has come from the outside to some extent but has been increased by deceit and indifference to low-income groups.

Hector Mayora Dawe, from the CAN [expansion unknown], emphasized that it is necessary to have profound faith in man and freedom and in the belief that if the individual is not improved, society will not improve. Consequently, complete political freedom without restrictions of any kind is required. Social solutions must be sought, for if the individual is sick, society will be sick also.

Work Programs

Villamar Contreras said that Guatemala is an eminently agricultural country and that the country's entire wealth has been built by the work and sweat of its native people. Consequently, the economic model must be revised. "I do not deny private enterprise the right to act, but economic models taken solely from books must be forgotten," he said.

Napoleon Alfaro said that all the programs that have been tried have been directed toward a small percentage of the population rather than the majority groups and have failed from the standpoint of culture and educational content. It is time to make a program of reforms, but based on the national reality and emerging from the presidentialist system.

Lionel Sisniega Otero, leader of the PUA [expansion unknown], asserted in contrast that Guatemala does not need agrarian reform, but "proper agricultural practices," meaning agricultural reform, consisting in using the land properly and no longer allowing a division of productive land into small plots of ground. It is necessary to create a real agroindustry in the country.

Danilo Barillas said that the next government will have to carry out authentic reforms and stressed the need for agrarian reform, inasmuch as the country is eminently agricultural and since this is the only way to save the country from bankruptcy. Likewise, there must be a cultural reform and work hard on integrating the native population into national culture and production.

Carpio Nicolle said that all groups agree that there is a dual society in Guatemala made up of Indians and mestizos, with one group enjoying a good standard of living and the other following the old ways. The basic problem has to do with incorporating broad sectors into national economic production.

Technical, financial and market support must be provided to the agricultural and industrial sector so that they produce more. The development of indigenous areas must be encouraged.

Soberanis proposed the need to promote education in keeping with the needs of the community and emphasized that it is necessary to incorporate women into society, in addition to creating programs aimed at the economic advancement of the neediest classes.

Zarazua Patzan stressed the fact that the participation of women in the country's political life has been nonexistent and that any government program must consider the great Indian masses and tackle the problem of illiteracy, but in the language native to each region. Women must be given more opportunities.

Dougherty said that his party is seeking to have the new constitution establish private funds for education. The country's basic problem is the concentration of power in the hands of the Executive Branch, meaning that education and the administration must be decentralized.

Mayora Dawe proposed that there should be freedom in the country and justice for all Guatemalans, for it is man who produces, man who works, and the truth is the search for means to meet the needs of individuals to the maximum extent.

Foreign Interventionism

All participants agreed on pointing out the refusal to allow foreign intervention in the region. Villamar Contreras was emphatic in saying that "we must not let outside strategies be imposed." Alfao said that we must not continue to allow ourselves to be used like sheep and prevent the Vietnamization which the great powers are trying to impose.

Lionel Sisniega presented the dramatic picture of how terrorism is destroying precisely those things which the neediest groups have built. Danilo proposed that the answer is an international-type government.

Carpio Nicolle stated that we are in a state of pre-world war. There is intervention in the Central American area and there must consequently be a democratic, pluralist government with the participation of all groups.

Soberanis attributed foreign intervention in the area to the fact that there was a Somoza in Nicaragua and other Somozas in Central America. This could be avoided with democracy and development. For Dougherty, we have not created any real defense against intervention because the remedy is democratization and this cannot be achieved through a law, but only by halting abuses.

11,464

CSO: 3248/504

BRIEFS

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF--Col Pablo Nuila Hub was sworn in yesterday as the new chief of staff, replacing Col Juan Jose Marroquin Siliezar, who was transferred to the directorship of the Adolfo V. Hall Institute in Retalhuleu. The change in military leadership took place in the morning, at a ceremony held in the house generally serving as a residence for the nation's chiefs of state. Colonel Nuila then went to the National Palace, where he turned over the post of secretary of public relations of the government to Ramon Zelada Carrillo, who until two days ago served as undersecretary in that same office. Zelada was sworn in by the general undersecretary of the staff headquarters, Marco Tulio Vargas. Colonel Nuila has occupied several posts in the military administration and the diplomatic corps. He was one of the founders of the jungle survival school known as Kaibiles, located in a place called El Infierno in La Polvora, Peten. He was later named consul of Guatemala in Belice, a post he left to take over the office of head of public relations of the army. From there, he went on to become secretary of public relations, which post he left yesterday to become chief of staff of the head of the government. Newsmen thanked him for his friendliness, which always characterized him during the time he served as press secretary. "This office has always had its doors open to the press and has cooperated insofar as possible with news activities." [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 12] 11,464

NONTRADITIONAL EXPORT INCENTIVES--New tax incentives granted to nontraditional export products not included in free trade governed by existing bilateral or multilateral treaties made by Guatemala with recipient countries went into effect yesterday. The provision will cover a period of 10 years and will also include incentives not contained in other laws granting export incentives, those products related to free zones of industry and trade, those exported from government storage facilities and re-exports. These incentives are contained in Decree Law 22-84 already published in the DIARIO OFICIAL and consist of the granting of tax voucher certificates to be issued by the Ministry of Public Finance for an amount equivalent to 10 and 15 percent of the FOB value of products. The first 10 percent will be granted to exports of nontraditional products exported starting 16 March and that were already exported previous to that date. The 15-percent incentive will be granted to new exports of nontraditional products, those to be shipped after the date mentioned, provided they go to markets in countries with which Guatemala has no bilateral or multilateral treaties governing free trade. The tax voucher certificate (CAT)

will be issued with the value expressed in national currency. It will not pay interest, will be nominative and transferrable if endorsed. It will be exempt from the payment of any tax, duty or levy, including its transfer on any basis. It will have an expiration date and lose all validity two years from the date of emission. The certificates may be used a year after their date of issuance, exclusively for the purpose of paying taxes to the government, including import duties. They may not be used to pay taxes, duties, rates, levies, quotas, tariffs and other obligations to municipalities or decentralized government agencies. The order establishes the expiration of the right, support for production, economic participation and the beneficiaries of the incentives. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 16] 11,464

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS--Guatemala City, 16 Mar (DPA)--Colonel Pablo Nuila Hub was sworn in today as chief of staff of the presidency, replacing Colonel Juan Jose Marroquin. Ramon Zelada Carrillo has replaced Nuila as public relations secretary of the presidency. Julia Vela has been sworn in as general director of the Culture and Arts Institute. [Summary] [PA222205 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0015 GMT 17 Mar 84 PA]

CSO: 3248/510

REVIEW OF FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR GUYMINE, BAUXITE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] GEORGETOWN, Monday (CANA)--Four years ago the financial resources of the Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE)--the state agency that's responsible for the local bauxite industry started to run dry, as the market for the ore contracted.

GUYMINE was no longer able to carry the 'burden' of supporting the Guyanese nation in general and the bauxite communities of Linden Ituni and Kwakwani in particular.

Bauxite at one time accounted for over 50 per cent of Guyana's export earnings.

But earnings from the company fell from \$618 million (Guy\$1--27 U.S. cents) in 1980 to an estimated \$220 million last year. During this period, the company's after tax net income too declined--from \$27 million to minus \$200 million, after a high of \$63 million in 1977.

Thus at a time when it was needed most--the Guyana economy has been in trouble for years now--GUYMINE was unable to fulfil commitments it made in 1977. This economic mainstay had been targetted to providing health, education, recreational and transportation facilities for residents in the mining communities.

The decline in GUYMINE earnings followed a similar drying up of the world aluminium markets, caused by the economic recession. The price of alumina was forced down from a lucrative 90 cents (U.S.) per pound to less than half--an uneconomic 40 cents (U.S.) per pound.

However, recent increases in the spot market price for alumina suggest that the industry could shortly recover from its three-year slump.

And, the company has begun to respond to this development. Production for the first two months of 1984 exceeded that for the corresponding period last year by 10 per cent.

To help improve plant efficiency GUYMINE plans to recycle enough calcined bauxite dust into pellets to generate about \$1.2 million a year. It has also

increased the rate of mining to achieve its revised 1984 target of 2.5 million tonnes of bauxite products.

The company, formed in 1977 through the merger of the bauxite operations at Berbice with those at Linden, has been able to secure a \$186 million (US\$49.6 million) loan from the Guyana Government. Its to pay off the interest on the company's large overdraft with local commercial banks.

The overdraft problem stemmed from the fact that GUYMINE was spending more than it was earning, so as to pay off foreign debts and also to finance local commitments.

As administrative co-ordinator Walter Melville explained at a recent meeting with journalists, the reduction in foreign earnings is a direct result of the loss of traditional markets.

As late as 1980 GUYMINE controlled about 80 per cent of the market for calcined bauxite, but subsequently lost about half of this to competitors, mainly Chinese.

The loss of the market resulted mainly from the company being deemed an unreliable supplier of calcined bauxite. The company had failed to fulfil its market requirements on a number of occasions.

In addition, the Chinese sold a cheaper, albeit inferior, variety of the product on the world market. The Chinese sold their product for about US\$50 per tonne less than Guyana, which was negotiating for around US\$470 per tonne.

This contraction in GUYMINE's traditional markets along with its reduced earning capacity forced the company to reduce its contributions to such social services as health, education, drainage, road buildings, sports and recreation and electricity supply.

However, the company says it is taking steps to overcome its problems by "attempting to do a couple of years' work in a couple of days."

If GUYMINE's recovery plans are fruitful, the company envisages regaining its place as the nation's prime earner of foreign exchange, a place it has yielded to the Guyana Sugar Corporation.

The strategy for the industry's recovery involves a reduction of operational costs mainly through the more efficient use of fuel. This is the most expensive input for the company. Accounting for 30 per cent of operational costs.

GUYMINE is also experimenting with the use of woodchips as a replacement for about ten per cent of its fuel needs. But according to process engineer Berkely Pollard, fuel substitution is still a good way down the road, since wood cannot generate the required high temperatures needed in the bauxite kilns.

Guyana has abundant forests, but as Linden operations manager Phillip Yeung said the efficient use of wood as a fuel substitute would require the installation of several new pieces of equipment and machinery and also the modification of techniques used in operating the kilns.

Other plans include the rehabilitation and manufacture of certain types of parts needed by the industry.

The cost-saving measures though important have to be supplemented by an efficient marketing strategy. And armed with the knowledge that this country possesses one of the best products in the world, GUYMINE's parent firm, the Bauxite Industry Development Company, has planned an intensive campaign to recover its lost markets.

To satisfy the expected increase in markets, GUYMINE has set itself a first quarter sales target of 400 000 tonnes of refractory 'A' grade super calcined bauxite. This the company feels will be enough to satisfy the market requirements.

However, the operations manager, Phillip Yeung is confident that GUYMINE can increase its production to 432 000 tonnes.

It is estimated however that it would take about three years before the industry can resume its role as a net earner of foreign exchange in Guyana and hence be able to help the community on the scale it used to.

CSO: 3298/629

JAGAN REVIEWS ECONOMIC WOES, URGES NATIONAL FRONT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 18 Mar 84 p 14

[Article by Cheddi Jagan]

[Text] "THERE is no doubt," President L.F.S. Burnham told the so-called Supreme Congress of the People, "that 1983 has been a bed of thorn." A month and a half later, on January 30, 1984, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Carl B. Greenidge, in his Budget Speech, said "I can offer no comforting solution which will allow us to survive and prosper."

This gloomy position is rooted in the fact that since 1976 Guyana's economy has been in a tailspin, with ever-increasing budget and balance of payments deficits.

The dismal, bankrupt situation was frankly admitted ("tell it as it is") in the 1980 Budget Speech of the Vice-President for Economic Planning and Finance. He pointed out: "At the end of 1977 we had fallen into arrears of payments due to external transactions in the amount of \$102 million. We were not paying our debts, and we were becoming uncreditworthy as a nation."

Two years later, referring to the worsening situation despite lavish outside financial assistance, he said: "In consequence, many suppliers have stopped exporting goods to us other than on a cash basis: and in some countries their export insurance agencies have withdrawn cover from us. We are not deemed to be credit-worthy at this time."

By the end of 1983, the position further deteriorated: commercial arrears relating to the payment of goods and services reached \$250 million (G).

Year after year, production targets set by the Burnham regime are not met. In 1981, the Vice-President with responsibility for the economy had told the Congress of the ruling PNC: "Over the years production in the major sectors of the economy has been indifferent. It has shown neither stability nor sustained growth. Within recent years, it can only be described as dismal."

The GDP real growth has shown a rapid decline as follows: 1978--minus one per cent; 1979--minus two per cent; 1977-81--minus nine per cent; 1982--minus eight per cent; 1983--minus 10.6 per cent.

Unemployment

In 1983, sugar production fell short of the target by 36,000 tons and its foreign exchange earnings by \$72 million (G). At 261,000 tons, it was only slightly higher than in 1964 (258,378 tons), the last year of the PPP Government, and about half the amount projected in the mid-70s by the PNC Government for 1984-85. In contrast, socialist Cuba in [198]3 produced much [more] sugar with less than one-third of the canecutters employed 12 years ago, and without entailing any unemployment.

Rice output fell substantially below the 1983 target and foreign exchange earnings dropped by \$53 million (G). Mining and quarrying experienced a fall in output by 38 per cent. Total export earnings fell short of target by \$238 million (G).

For the disastrous performance of the economy, the Government has been constantly trying to put the blame elsewhere. In the past, the "oil crisis," the "world crisis," the weather and "saboteurs" were the principal scapegoats. Now it's the "parallel market."

Consumption

The "parallel market," is accused of diverting away from the coffers of the Government valuable foreign exchange, and utilising it for consumption goods. The argument is put forward that without such diversion, the foreign exchange could be directed to the essentials for production--raw materials, spare parts, equipment and machinery.

There is some leakage of foreign exchange through the "parallel market." But even if it was completely stopped (and this is impossible), it will not solve the problem. The foreign exchange position has become acute because of mismanagement and acts of commission and omission.

In casting the blame on the "parallel market," the Burnham regime is dealing with effect rather than cause. Had it satisfied the basic needs of the people, there would have been no "parallel market."

A chronic foreign exchange shortage is being emphasised as the basis of our production problems. But this was not always a problem.

In the 1974-76 period, as a result of the fantastic leap in the world price of sugar, Guyana greatly increased its foreign reserves, and with a sugar levy, the Government secured over \$300 million in revenue. In the 1978-80 period, foreign exchange flowed in through IMF credits, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank loans, and USAID assistance (37 per cent of all US aid for 25 years).

In this 1974-80 period, the decisive factors inhibiting production were internal--minority government, lack of democracy and military/police and

bureaucratic/administrative methods of rule and management, political and racial discrimination, corruption and extravagance.

Wage Freeze

IMF "medicine," aimed at a solution of the crisis at the expense of the people--wage freeze, cuts in subsidies and social services, dismissal of workers, increased taxation, devaluation--also led to lowering living standards, alienation, discontent and low morale.

Cumulatively, all these factors acted as fetters on the productive forces and caused a vicious circle or poverty.

Shortfalls in production caused declining Government revenues on the one hand and declining exports and foreign exchange earnings on the other. This led to extensive borrowing; firstly, from the local banking system to bridge the chronic, growing and huge current budget deficits (realised at 48 per cent, 51 per cent and 75 per cent of current revenue in 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively); secondly, from overseas for the capital (developmental) budget.

The large public debt which increased from \$127 million in 1964 to \$2,327 million (G) in 1983, has become a fantastic burden. Debt payments (\$520.9 million (G) in 1983) were 92 per cent of current revenue (\$565.9 million (G) and contribute principally to the huge budget deficit of \$424.6 million (G). They also account for an increasing amount of foreign exchange earnings--from ten per cent in 1977 to 42 per cent in 1983. When to this is added the 41 per cent of foreign exchange for mineral oil, the foreign exchange crisis, in addition to the internal factors, looms large and becomes for the PNC regime insoluble.

Pleas for increased production and productivity, what is deemed "improved production," have fallen on deaf ears. On March 30, 1982, the "Guyana Chronicle," in an editorial, pointed out that every recent budget set out:

1. production targets, which are "quite modest" compared with previous performance and "certainly attainable"; and
2. "epic appeal to the nation to rise up to the prevailing challenge."

...but neither the Vice-President nor his Government nor this newspaper (which the latter owns) could escape the reality that those epic calls have not succeeded in getting our people to produce those modest targets."

Clearly Guyana needs a revolutionary-democratic approach. This can come about only with a political solution and a new government--a National Patriotic Front Government of all democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces, serving the broad interests of the workers, farmers, intelligentsia, small business and patriotic capitalists.

MANLEY COMMENTS ON REPERCUSSIONS FROM GRENADA EXERCISE

St Johns OUTLET in English 17, 24 Feb 84 p 4

[Interview with Michael Manley, leader of the opposition PLP and former prime minister, by Ken Gordon in regular weekly OUTLET column "What in the World Is Going On?"; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] Q. Given the severe financial constraints of the Jamaican economy and the powerful setback to the socialist movement of the region in recent times, what would have been the principal plans of your policy for getting Jamaica moving if you had been elected to office?

A. We are carrying out a major exercise about economic policy and strategy. We announced that we were part way through with the work at our annual conference in October. We are due to hold a delegates' conference in April of next year when we will be putting our own economic blueprint to them for final discussion and amendment and adoption.

So really it is that by the end of April coming that we will be able to say definitively how we will intend to propose an economic strategy to the Jamaican people. One can indicate that there are certain fundamental differences in approach between the present Government and ourselves and they really are to do with the relative weight that is attached to the role of self-reliance on your economic strategy, what is the role of your construction policies and your import policies in support of a self-reliance strategy.

You might summarise it this way: Both parties will agree on the importance of foreign capital; both parties agree on the prime significance of a booming tourist industry because that's your major quick access to foreign exchange.

But where the Jamaican Labour Party have based their strategy on an entirely neo-colonialist concept with which you really say the principle engine of development is going to be foreign capital, and hopefully multi-national corporation capital, our view is that the main engine of development should be through the internal process, and that to support that you have to mobilise the population to be able to take certain sacrifices, to be able to do without certain luxury imports, to husband your resources to finance and endure an essentially self-reliant effort.

You hope naturally that there will be foreign capital as a supplement to that effort but you will never agree that you make yourself dependent on foreign capital for the main thrust of your economic development.

Q. Is there anything you can identify that you would have done differently from the last time?

A. Several things. Certainly we would have a much better understanding now of the attitude and, one might say, the reflexes of the private sector, so now we are trying very hard to build bridges to the private sector to make them understand that we have always been sincere when we have said that we want our own private sector to play a dynamic and expanding role in our economic development, and certainly what we would hope next time is far better, a far better climate between the private sector and ourselves, more exact about our policies, more clear in our lines of communication to them. So that is one very important thing.

Secondly, we have to look very carefully at the misunderstanding that surrounded our foreign policy, a misaligned foreign policy, now very clear in our minds, but it was obvious that it was very skillfully misrepresented outside of Jamaica and even inside of Jamaica, and caused a lot of problems which we would hope to avoid next time. Also, by being clearer and more specific in our communication of what we are trying to do.

What I think is very important is that in 1972 and then shortly after that massive world economic crisis, we were very anxious to get so many things done in Jamaica that desperately needed to be done that I think we pushed the administrative machine, the whole infrastructure of management in the public and private sectors, further than it could go.

We tried to do too much, not because we were trying to divide or to hurt Jamaica, but maybe we were too anxious to do what was right. So I think we have learned a lot about how you have to pace what you try to do by a more realistic appreciation of your capacity to do them.

Q. Does this mean that in retrospect you regret statements like the one about five flights per day leaving Jamaica which caused quite an uproar.

A. I have always said that I regretted making that statement. I said so in Jamaica and it was even published on the front page of the Gleaner. But what I really regretted was that the statement was taken completely out of context and was completely misunderstood and completely misrepresented. But that is hollow, for obviously if I had not made the remark then it could not have been misrepresented.

What I actually said I stand by. What I said was that there are certain kinds of people in countries like Jamaica who are not essentially patriotic and have a get-rich-quick mentality where they don't want to do the hard work that entitles them to their wealth; but that we have every respect for people who work hard, build up their wealth through honest work, by building the economy and otherwise. Then I went on to say that we were going to try to build a

Jamaica that really had no place for such folk, people who just want to get rich quickly without trying to make their genuine contribution.

Finally, I made the remark that, however, thank God we are a free country and those people who don't like an atmosphere in which they are expected to make an honest effort and get their honest reward, there is no problem then because they can always go somewhere else. At which stage I laughed and said in fact they tell me there are five flights a day to Miami, as a joke. It wasn't an invitation to people to leave, but I was just saying, can't we all just have a patriotic desire to get what we do deserve for honest effort?

Funnily enough, Edward Seaga said the same thing, but there was no desire on the part of certain elements of the press to cause trouble about his remarks. I guess with me there was, and I paid the price of it.

Q. Looking at a different issue, have you been fully informed about events in Grenada as Leader of the Opposition.

A. No. Nobody has even bothered to tell me anything. Our Government does not consult. Even when the polls show I am substantially ahead of them in popular support they behaved as though we do not exist. The only time they behaved as if we existed was when we decided not to contest the election. Then everybody got into a fine upset about that. No. They don't give me any briefing at all. The information I get, I get from reading the press. I find a very useful source of information about Grenada is the New York Times. I recommend it to you.

Q. If you were the Prime Minister of Jamaica, would Jamaica have participated in the Caribbean-U.S. multi-lateral force?

A. If I had been Prime Minister of Jamaica I would have insisted at the meeting under George Chambers chairmanship that we explore the possibilities which Chambers believed to have existed for working out a rapid, tough, negotiated settlement that forced the military to back down, to substitute a proper civilian Government and to bring justice to the people who killed Bishop. I would have backed Chambers to try that first, and decisively, and then see what happens. I have no apologies for it. I know it is a minority opinion. I think Chambers was right and that is my opinion and I still think I am right.

Q. Do you know of any instance where sanctions of that kind have ever worked?

A. I know that this was a regime that was scared out of its wits; that was totally isolated in its own population; totally isolated in the Caribbean, totally isolated by the right wing in the Caribbean with people like Seaga; totally isolated and denounced by the more left wing persons like myself. There was no way in the Caribbean that anybody was supporting them and they were denounced and repudiated by Cuba.

To whom were they going to turn? They couldn't even get the militia back for they were Bishop's people. They were helpless. They could have been brought to book in no time. Suppose I was wrong? What do I lose? What do you lose

even if you tried it for a few days, instead of opening up this door and box of trouble for the future of inviting a foreign major power to intervene in your country, in a sovereign country?

Now we find ourselves within a group in the region to whom it is normal for the U.S. to intervene with military power. I think it is extremely dangerous, and I know I am a minority in saying so. I have no apologies. I believe I am right.

This has nothing to do with the nonsense that is talked about in the eastern Caribbean that I don't care about the eastern Caribbean. I care profoundly for people and profoundly for people in the eastern Caribbean. Nobody was more shocked and distressed than me at what happened in Grenada. But you have to set things in a wider context and remember that time is longer than rope and history is longer than both.

Q. To refer to your question of what was there to lose. If there had been a delay, was there not the prospect that either Cuba or Russia or some other force could have moved to reinforce Austin?

A. Cuba had made it absolutely clear that they would not support the military regime, that they did not agree with what had been done and that they would not support them. This had been made absolutely clear not only by Castro's public statement but by his private communications to President Reagan. And it was not denied by Reagan.

Q. Did Castro not also say at the time that even though he was condemning what had been taking place that they would continue to work with the Grenada revolution?

A. He said so. He said they would continue to build the airport because that was needed for the Grenadian people. Those were in his words.

Q. Were you aware of the differences between Bishop and Coard?

A. No. We were not.

Q. Is it your view that these were ideological or arising purely from personal ambition on the part of Coard?

A. My impression is that they were really about the question of what was the role of the party in the development process. All my reading that I can do of the party, the minutes that I have studied, that I now have a chance to study, suggest to me that whatever ambitions have been involved and who knows, who can read that, who can get inside another man's head, was that the thing that was causing the difficulty was that the question was what should be the role, the power, the influence of the party in the NJM, as distinct from the broad mass processes that were being led by Bishop and the Government. My understanding is that that was the real genesis of the problem.

That, of course, may have then become overlaid with all sorts of subjective considerations; we have had no chance to talk to Coard and try to examine

what was in his head and of course we will never have a chance to talk to Bishop, or with their emissary, who died, Noel, who came to our conference, in fact, to report the problem. He made no comment to me. They probably regarded it as an internal problem. It took me completely by surprise.

Q. In an interview some years ago I asked whether you had made any attempt to influence Bishop about holding elections and about releasing from detention people who had been held without trial. You responded then that you did not feel free to reveal whatever advice you had given to another Prime Minister. Now that circumstances have changed in a most tragic way, would you be prepared to say what advice you gave Bishop about his policies at that time?

A. Yes, I will say this. When I had discussed it with him, I told him that I thought that the quicker he could create a situation in which human rights were manifested, you know, being operative, and that also the quicker he could legitimise the whole process by a formal democratic imprimatur, if you wish, that I thought it would be better for everybody for everything, for all concerned.

He always told me that he was working towards it as rapidly as he thought was possible and also always made the point to me that he always thought it was important to build these democratic institutions so as to create a patriotic institutional framework that could withstand ebbs and flows of ordinary, plural democratic politics and in that I think he was very sincere. I think he made very real progress and I think that is the most lasting contribution of the revolution.

Q. Accepting your belief as sincere, how do you explain the personal violence directed against so many people by detaining them for so many years without trial?

A. Well, my understanding is (I know that I am only to tell you what his explanation was) that these were people who had been felt, in a very ugly way, to have been involved in the Mongoose Gang. But it was very difficult to get evidence on them that would stand up in court and that they were working patiently to see if they could build cases against them. That was the explanation.

Q. Were people like Leslie Pierre, who edited a newspaper in respect of which Bishop introduced retroactive legislation to imprison him, viewed as being members of the Mongoose Gang?

A. No. I will concede that in the discussions with him I never got into individual names. I would never suggest that Leslie Pierre would come into that category. I am giving you a sort of example of the kind of explanation that he would give. I know that he also had a view about people who he thought were trying to sabotage the regime and, of course, to try to have them brought to trial in terms of the objective processes of justice and testing things in the courts would be better for everybody and for him.

Q. Does the Grenada experience have any lessons for the rest of the Caribbean?

A. Well, gosh, I would think first of all that one thing that emerges very clearly from the Grenadian experience is a thing that has always been a part of the PNP in Jamaica. And that is to have infinite patience in preserving the sanctity of our eternal dialogue, the purity of our internal democratic processes and infinite patience in dealing with all major issues and debating them clearly at the highest level, and then to the widest level so that all the time people feel they have access to influencing the decisions that are made.

We spend a tremendous amount of time in doing that. It may be that this had fallen short in the NJM towards the end and may have contributed towards some of the strain that developed. I think that's important. I think also that it is very important to achieve a great degree of ideological clarity so that your internal processes are absolutely consistent with your external image and your action generally. I think that is also very important.

Q. You have publicly acknowledged your admiration for Fidel Castro. You must obviously know him well. What do you think would be his reasons for supplying Grenada with such a variety and so large a cache of arms and ammunition?

A. This is not a matter I have discussed. You are just asking me an outsider's opinion. But I have not been and I am not in any way a part of those decisions. But I do know that Bishop developed a tremendous fear towards the end that the U.S. planned to knock him over to invade and just remove the revolution. He said he had a duty to get himself into the greatest possible state of preparedness.

After calculating that the more prepared he was the more he was able to defend himself, the more the planners at the Pentagon would have to think carefully before they committed forces to that kind of adventure.

Now I cannot say whether the Pentagon was planning to invade him. I must say that they seemed astonished when the time came. But I will not stress that point. But the fact is that he believed that they thought so and he believed that there was a lot of objective evidence to support it, and I know that his feeling was, if I am going to be knocked out I will sell myself dear. They will really have to come and get us out of this place and maybe if I am prepared they will think twice before they try.

And I know as a fact that this is why he asked for arms and asked for help to bring himself to the greatest possible degree of preparedness. He was not asking for those arms, I am personally convinced, to be a centre of terrorism. Nor an agent of any kind of Cuban activity. I think he wanted to defend himself and I think that's why the Cubans helped him in that way.

Q. It is one thing for Bishop to ask for arms for as illogical a reason as to expect to stop the U.S. if they wanted to invade him but it is another thing...

A. Please don't put words in my mouth. I did not say he thought he could stop them. But he thought he could make make it so expensive to try that they would think twice before they did try.

Q. Do you think that would really have presented a problem?

A. That's exactly what Nicaragua is doing. Why do you think Nicaragua is heavily armed? Do you really think Nicaragua think that they would dare to invade Honduras? You don't think they have the intelligence to know they would never get away with that? What they have the arms for is to make America think twice before sending their armies in, knowing America can beat them, but American also has to justify casualties to their public opinion and they know that. They're not fools.

They know that the reason why Cuba still survives is that America cannot face the casualties that would be involved in defeating them, and I am not defending Cuba but that's why Cuba survives; because the Pentagon could not afford to take the political risk of the casualties that would be involved in America's admitted ability to destroy them.

Q. But can we really make a parallel between the Cuba situation and its sophisticated armament and what Grenada was attempting to do? Are we really talking...

A. You tell me, then. Do you honestly believe, you with your sophistication and intelligence, do you really believe that Bishop was planning to invade St Vincent?

Q. No I don't really believe that.

A. Do you think Bishop thought that anybody would allow him to get away with invading anybody?

Q. No, but what I do regard as the real prospect is that those arms could have been used to supply support to any radical elements in any part of the region, and that seems to be the real question that has not been addressed.

A. Well, I can only say that when you say that that is conjecture. All I can say is that in no conversation that I have ever had with Bishop was there any indication that Bishop's mind was on that wavelength. Bishop's obsession, as it came across to me in conversation, was with what he called defending the revolution; the very phrase he used was that we would have to be ready to defend the revolution. Anything else is conjecture.

Q. What do you think will be the effects of the recent devaluation on the Jamaican economy?

A. I think it will have very serious effects. It will have very heavy effects on prices. What is worse, I don't see the signs that it is going to be able to stimulate the kind of substantial economic reaction that the country desperately needs. We will remain trapped in the problem of the shortage of foreign exchange.

What has happened is that the country has gone on this spending spree. Mr Seaga keeps his political promise to the people that they can have what they want, all the German wines and caviar. You name it, it's all here in the supermarket. And we have just blown it all. In fact, Time magazine made the remark in a very interesting article last week when it said that Seaga got vast economic help and has blown it, blown it for short-term political reasons. Now we remain trapped in the problem.

A. My final question: do you think Jamaica's ultimate destiny is Caribbean oriented or do you think it has to be shaped into the whole of North America?

A. To my dying day I will say I admire North America. I admire the American civilisation; I admire its fantastic accomplishments. But that's their accomplishments. We are Caribbean. We are not 3,000 miles of the most fertile plains in the world with the most fantastic natural resources in the world. We are a group of islands with a unique history, and we can have a unique destiny if we only have the confidence to build our own regional strength, work on our regional integration movement along the lines that William Demas had been pleading with us for years and years, and people like Allister McIntyre.

If we only had the guts and the will and the confidence to make that the main focus of our efforts; I think that is the Caribbean that I believe in and that is the Caribbean that will become possible one day.

CSO: 3298/630

PAN LEADER ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF MEDDLING IN CHURCH MATTERS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 24-A

[Article by Joaquin Paredes]

[Text] Saltillo, Coahuila, 26 Feb--Pablo Emilio Madero, head of the National Action Party [PAN], said that "the state is meddling in church matters." He reiterated that the clergy does not interfere in PAN's political life and said that last year "the system had a magnificent opportunity to recover credibility at the popular level; however, the opportunity was lost because of corrupt electoral practices in eight states."

He added that PAN agrees there should be a respectful separation of church and state and denied the National Action Party is receiving money from business organizations, church groups or foreign governments.

Interviewed in the offices of the white-and-blue party in this city, he said that in the National Action Party there is only room for those who want to fight for the country's good, since the party "represents Mexico and is a cross section of the people."

He said that Mexicans know that the situation prevailing in the country is the result of the ineptitude and corruption of public officials.

He accused the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] of "systematically trampling on democracy" and said that the Institutional Revolutionary Party has become the "antithesis of the ideals for which Francisco I. Madero fought."

He denied that the party is economically and ideologically dependent on any Monterrey business group and said that democracy as a standard of conduct and a way of life has suffered an obvious regression.

He said that frequently the freedom of workers is restricted when they are not permitted to belong to the trade union of their choice. He said that the same thing is happening to government workers who belong to a union and who at times are forced to join the official party.

On the subject of the economic problems the country is experiencing, Pablo Emilio Madero said that the crisis could have been avoided. "The ineptitude of those who are governing us not only provoked the crisis but accelerated it." He added: "The Mexican people will continue to suffer from the crisis while those who provoked it are profiting from it."

The PAN leader came to this city to prepare a calendar of preelectoral activities and to reorganize the white-and-blue party cadres.

8143

CSO: 3248/501

FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT MONIES FOR SINALOA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Feb 84 pp 4-A, 21-A

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 22 Feb--"We will move forward without restricting freedoms or curtailing rights," with the available funding and with the courage and devotion to work of the people of Sinaloa, stated Governor Antonio Toledo Corro. He went on to say that the Single Development Agreement seeks to establish close-knit cooperation among the three levels of government and to involve all of the sectors in a joint effort to overcome current circumstances

Toledo Corro made these remarks at a meeting at which, together with Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, the national defense secretary and representative of President Miguel de la Madrid, he signed the Single Development Agreement, which calls for a Federal Government investment of 2 97 billion pesos in Sinaloa in 1984

He also said that the decentralization of government and the consolidation of federalism meant more than just respecting areas of jurisdiction and redistributing resources; it also meant establishing closer cooperation among the federal, state and municipal governments and encouraging all sectors to join in the common effort for development.

He noted that the available funding gives us grounds for cautious optimism, that the courage and devotion to work of the people of Sinaloa gives us reassurance and that "therefore we will be able to move forward without restricting freedoms or curtailing rights."

Towards the end of his address, Toledo Corro asked Arevalo Gardoqui to tell the president that the people of Sinaloa are mobilizing and closing ranks around his development policy. "We are facing up to the situation with actions that take their course and direction from democratic, nationalistic planning."

For his part, the president's representative said that Sinaloa has always been an example to other states because of the efforts that its people have made.

He asserted that the people of Sinaloa have always demonstrated courage, dedication and enthusiasm for work, which the nation requires during these troubled economic times.

It was reported at the plenary meeting of the Development Planning Committee that the authorized Federal Government investments for Sinaloa this year total 2.97 billion pesos, and this does not include the regular programs of each department.

8743

CSO: 3248/491

END TO INTERSECRETARIAT DISPUTE SEEN IN COMAR APPOINTMENT

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish Nc 382, 27 Feb 84 pp 29-30

[Article by Carlos Fazio]

[Text] Ambassador Oscar Gonzalez took office on 21 February as new coordinator of COMAR [Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees] by resolution from Secretary of Government Manuel Bartlett.

Gonzalez, former Mexican ambassador to Algeria, Tunisia and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, replaces Mario Vallejo, now director of Migration Services.

The appointment apparently ends the dispute between the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and the Secretariat of Government about the policy toward Guatemalan refugees.

Vallejo Hinojosa, simultaneously director of migration and coordinator of COMAR, was involved in a diplomatic incident with the UNHCR representative, Pierre Jambor. It resulted in the latter's replacement in the Mexican mission.

The appointment seems to reaffirm the humanistic criterion in the treatment of refugees supported by the Secretariat of Foreign Relations. The Secretariat of Government gives priority to the national security aspect in the southeastern zone.

The secretaries of government, foreign relations and labor and social welfare toured the refugee camps in Chiapas on 18 and 19 February accompanied by the governor, Gen Absalon Castellanos Dominguez.

This tour by Secretary Manuel Bartlett, Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and Secretary Arsenio Farell Cubillas was part of the first annual meeting of COMAR. This organization guaranteed that welfare and educational activities and physical security for Guatemalan refugees will continue.

Meanwhile, Guatemala still states that there is progress in the negotiations with the Mexican Government concerning a bilateral pact for the voluntary return of the refugees. Here in Mexico on 14 February, Rodolfo Perdomo, Guatemalan minister of agriculture, affirmed the existence of negotiations with

Mexican authorities through a "bilateral commission." According to the 8 February issue of the Guatemalan newspaper LA PRENSA LIBRE, a bilateral pact for the voluntary return of Guatemalan refugees in Chiapas would soon be signed.

The statement is attributed to the Guatemalan president himself, General Mejia Victores, who announced that the Guatemalan negotiator on the commission is the president of the Guatemalan Red Cross, Jorge Toriello.

7717

CSO: 3248/498

BORDER EXPERT FAULTS MEXICAN-AMERICANS' STAND ON IMMIGRATION

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Feb 84 pp 7-A, 8-A

["Northern Border" Column by Jorge A. Bustamante: "The 'Hispanos' Error"]

[Text] The number of Chicanos, Latins, Hispanos, Mexican-Americans or U.S. people of Mexican origin--under their varied denominations--approaches 20 million when added to the Puerto Ricans, Cubans and people from other Latin American countries. As is known, none of the terms mentioned above is acceptable to all those in that population sector. There are also very large groups that call themselves by some of those denominations and reject the rest. They feel offended if someone calls them by some name that is not their preferred denomination. There is a problem with the terms referring to this population sector which has a common ethnic origin. The U.S. Census Office solved this problem by using all the known terms. The person interviewed chose the preferred denomination to identify his ethnic origin.

Therefore, it is known that in 1980 the U.S. people of Mexican origin constituted approximately two-thirds of the almost 15 million U.S. people of Latin American origin. The U.S. Government began to use the term "Hispano" some 10 years ago to officially denote all the population of Latin American or Spanish origin. Its use has spread but not without explicit rejection from broad sectors that prefer other names.

I will refer here to the EOM's [U.S. people of Mexican origin] in relation to the debate on U.S. immigration policy, especially the Simpson-Mazzoli bill of amendments to the Immigration Law. I will begin by explaining that the EOM's cannot be confined to one category without running the risk of making unjustified generalizations about a very heterogeneous population. The EOM's of Texas are not the same as the EOM's of California, New Mexico, Chicago or Colorado, to mention only the main geographic concentrations. Each of them has historical differences from the others based on the degree of assimilation to U.S. culture and society, almost always indicated by the language spoken at home and how the dominant groups in each one of those states have treated them. Even within each state, there are very important differences among the EOM's based on their socioeconomic characteristics and levels.

After this note of precaution, I will say that the main EOM organizations have been noteworthy for their extensive and consistent solidarity and commitment

to Mexican illegal aliens. The widest and legally most significant defense of the human and labor rights of illegal Mexicans in the United States has been carried out by many EOM organizations that have law firms devoted full-time to the free defense of Mexican illegal aliens. Neither the Mexican Government--despite the unquestionable expansion of consular protection--nor any other public or private institution in our country has provided such broad and consistent aid as that generously given to Mexican illegal aliens by the EOM organizations.

Those EOM organizations have also been noteworthy for a rare unity in their opposition to the different bills of amendments to the Immigration Law from the first "Rodino Law bill" in 1971 to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill and including the "Carter Plan" of 1977 and the "Reagan Plan" of 1980. The opposition of the EOM's to those bills was always characterized by a clear defense of the human and labor rights of the illegal aliens. That continuum of solidarity has just been broken by the Washington representatives of the main EOM organizations like LULAC [League of United Latin American Citizens], MALDEF [Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund], the G.I. Forum (Association of Mexican War Veterans) and the National Council on Race. They decided in a meeting in Washington on 1 February that they would support a bill of amendments to the Immigration Law that U.S. Representative Edward Roybal from Los Angeles would present as an alternative to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. Making a 180-degree turn from the position held for several decades, these EOM organizations are favoring an increase in border police as a solution to the problems of illegal immigration.

Although they are in favor of substantial normalization of the situation of the illegal aliens and propose a program of economic aid for countries with highest illegal emigration to the United States, their support for massive police action as a solution denotes the concept of migration from Mexico as a crime, not as a labor phenomenon based on a bilateral labor market in which the U.S. demand is as real as the Mexican supply. This new concept is like all the bills in that the EOM's are within their rights to define their political strategies based on their interests which do not always coincide with Mexico's. It is equally true, though, that this change hurts the interests of the Mexican migrant workers. Therefore, all the U.S. communities of people of Mexican origin must know that we in Mexico deeply regret the change of the above mentioned organizations to a police solution for a situation that is not a crime. It reflects a labor supply and demand with costs and benefits, although unequal, for both countries. We are sure that history will show them that it was a mistake to believe that they are influencing the decisions of Washington by weakening solidarity with the Mexicans.

7717

CSO: 3248/498

FEDERAL PLAN TO BUILD 1,000 DWELLINGS PER WORKDAY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR In Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Aurora Berdejo Arvizu]

[Excerpts] One thousand dwellings will be built each workday this year; the Federal Government will allocate 357 billion pesos for this program, "the most ambitious in the nation's history," which will benefit 1.5 million persons, and not only will this program help to meet an elementary need but will revive the economy and create 434,000 jobs as well, the secretary of urban development and ecology, Marcelo Javelly Girard, reported yesterday

The National Housing Program for 1984 was set in motion by President Miguel de la Madrid at a meeting in Los Pinos at which the head of the Urban Development and Ecology Secretariat (SEDUE) noted that the program represents an investment 142 percent larger than the funding for housing in 1983

Several national secretaries and representatives of institutions involved in housing programs attended the meeting. The SEDUE chief said that this could not be regarded as an emergency program; it represents grassroots action in connection with the straightening out of the economy and structural change.

He stated that never before had there been such a forthright attempt to coordinate supply and demand, adding that government housing agencies have planned on outlays of 257 billion pesos in 1984; an additional 100 billion will be invested as follows:

Some 77.5 billion will come from the Housing Finance Program and will be handled through the national banking system. Thus, Javelly said, these institutions are boosting their involvement in social matters, as befits them as national credit institutions.

From FOVISSSTE's available funds will come 7 billion pesos as a supplement to its authorized budget, he said, and through the Low-Cost Housing Fund the government will put in another 9 billion for a broad social coverage program; another billion will come through the SEDUE Rented Housing Trust.

Javelly explained that the program would receive a complementary allocation of 5 5 billion pesos in the form of an in-kind contribution from the public sector to establish the land reserve, which can be done under the latest amendments to the National Assets Law.

The secretary asserted that the fundamental goal of this "strategic" program is to invest as much as possible in low-cost housing so that low-income families have a better chance to secure a home.

For this reason, he said, 65 percent of the funds will be earmarked for progressive housing and housing improvements and just 28 percent for finished housing; the remaining 7 percent will go for equipment, materials and land

Javelly stated that the sector would build 270,000 dwellings this year; this is unprecedented in number and in terms of a "social reorientation, and it poses the challenge of constructing close to 1,000 housing units per workday." He then concluded:

"The national housing stock increased by an average of 400,000 new and reconditioned housing units a year from 1970 to 1980. The public sector accounted for just 1/5, or 80,000 units a year on the average, of this supply. This comes to just 1/3 of the 270,000 that will be built this year. If we consider that our population growth generates a demand for 360,000 housing units a year and that to this we must add 140,000 units that need to be improved during the year, the supply promoted by the public sector in 1984 will cover more than half of that demand by itself for the first time."

8743

CSO: 3248/491

IRATE HOUSEWIVES ATTACK, ROB MILK DELIVERY TRUCK

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Mar 84 p 5-A

[Text] Yesterday, angry housewives from the former Hipodromo de Peralvillo quarter attacked a Lala milk delivery truck after the driver and his helper tried to raise the price of the dairy product. The women seized the milk and several thousand pesos.

With sticks and stones, about 30 female residents of that quarter chased off Cecilio Aceves Herrera and Javier Sanchez Garcia, who were forced to abandon the truck in which they were carrying hundreds of liters of milk in four-pack containers.

At 8 am, the dairy truck arrived in the vicinity of the San Joaquin market; apparently, the men tried to sell the milk at a price higher than that set by the authorities, angering the housewives.

There were insults, shouts and, finally, an attempted lynching. The truck driver and his helper ran down several streets pursued by a dozen women.

In the meantime, other housewives seized the milk cartons and ran to their homes, with 3 or 4 liters of milk in their arms.

According to the deliverymen, there were at least 300,000 pesos in cash in the money box.

Several streets away, with a number of housewives still in pursuit, Aceves Herrera and Sanchez Garcia managed to hail a taxi which took them to the company for which they work.

Later they went to the Judicial Police station to report what had happened.

A dozen police officers were sent to the scene by Maj Jose Luis Falcon, commander of the fifth group.

The empty milk truck was found at the scene of the incident. The four-pack containers of milk and the money had disappeared.

No one in the neighborhood knew what had happened. "There were no witnesses." According to the complaint filed by the injured parties, the Lala company suffered losses totaling 3 million pesos, covering the milk, money and damage to the truck.

Major Falcon reported that investigations had begun at the request of the Public Ministry; however, he said that no one had yet been arrested.

8143

CSO: 3248/501

AMBASSADOR TO POLAND REVIEWS NATION'S PROBLEMS

Warsaw PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY in Polish 26 Feb 84 p 11

[Interview with Nicaraguan Ambassador to Poland Jacinto Suarez Espinoza, by Roman Dobrzynski: "We Shall Defend the Revolution to the End"]

[Text] We met on an airplane on a flight between Managua and Havana. As luck would have it, we had seats side by side. Jacinto Suarez Espinoza, ambassador from Nicaragua to the Soviet Union, Poland, and Mongolia, belongs to the oldest generation of Sandinistas, he told me.

[Question] How old are you?

[Answer] Thirty-six.

[Question] That's not the age of Methusela.

[Answer] Our generation entered battle at a very young age. I have been a member of FSLN for 20 years.

[Question] Twenty years of struggle?

[Answer] I was in jail for 7 years. I got out 27 December 1974.

[Question] That was the memorable day of the attack on the home of Castillo, the industrialist, when the partisans took a number of hostages, including U.S. Ambassador Turner Shalton.

[Answer] It was wonderful. Nobody had a hair on his head damaged, but Somoza was forced to release a number of political prisoners.

[Question] Daniel Ortega was released at that time.

[Answer] We were in the same cell, and we left it together. For a while I worked abroad. After the victory of the revolution, I became deputy minister of foreign affairs and then ambassador to three socialist countries.

(The plane landed in Havana. I remained in Cuba. Ambassador Suarez continued on his way by plane. We made an appointment to meet in Warsaw. We met in the middle of the winter. We hardly recognized one another in our heavy fur coats.)

[Question] Aren't you cold, Mr Ambassador?

[Answer] On the contrary. I came from Moscow to Warsaw to get warm.

[Question] Have you been in Managua recently?

[Answer] Yes, I was.

[Question] What has changed since we left Nicaragua together?

[Answer] There are a lot of trenches and shelters, which prove the society's defense preparedness and testify to the popular nature of the revolution. Our leadership is making tremendous efforts on the diplomatic plane to prevent war, but at the same time we are not hiding the fact that we are preparing for it. The United States should be aware that if they lay a finger on Nicaragua they are going to have another Vietnam on their hands.

[Question] And it will be close to their borders. Managua is closer to Miami than New York is.

[Answer] That statement comes out of the propaganda of Reagan's team, who view changes in Nicaragua in the context of a threat to U.S. national security, but the problem lies not in the fact that they are afraid of Soviet bases in Nicaragua but in the fact that they cannot have their own. We have stated many times that we do not want any bases and that we are ready to sign agreements to that effect.

[Question] Are their foreign military advisors in Nicaragua?

[Answer] Yes, but we are ready to thank them for their help and send them on their way, if the foreign advisors are removed from neighboring countries. We have issued corresponding drafts of protocols with Salvador, Honduras, and the United States. To date we have received no response.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] Because such agreements would keep Reagan's national security philosophy from making any sense. This philosophy actually is hiding altogether different goals. President Reagan is not afraid of our military strength.

[Question] Then what is he afraid of?

[Answer] Our example. An independent country making revolutionary changes, and all this in a region which the Americans consider their absolute sphere

of influence, may prove to be a touchy example. The United States treats the Caribbean with its communication routes as a mare nostrum and wants undivided rule in this region. We are not exporting revolution. The example exports itself, and this is what the United States is afraid of. President Reagan thinks he can stop this by force.

[Question] What in essence are the Americans afraid of? In other words, what is Sandinism?

[Answer] First of all let us explain who Augusto Cesar Sandino was.

In 1926, along with a handful of comrades, he began fighting the American occupation forces, and after 7 years he forced them to withdraw. He was murdered, 50 years ago, on 21 February 1934, by Anastasio Somoza, whom the Americans left to watch after their interests. The history of our country in essence is the history of a struggle against the United States, the historical enemy of our nation. The Sandinista National Liberation Front, which came into being in 1961, took on an antiimperialist nature by fighting its boss, but it also adhered to the classist goals of that struggle.

[Question] The struggle against the dictatorship was carried on using these slogans. Do the changes which have been made since the dictatorship was overthrown allow us to call the Sandinista revolution socialist?

[Answer] Fundamental changes have been made in the structure of land ownership. A million and a half hectares belonged to the latifundistas, mainly people associated with the Somoza regime. The reform law liberated the land from them. Up to this time peasants have been given deeds of about half a million hectares. The operation of transfer of title is still going on.

The formation of the public health service is an accomplishment of revolutionary importance. Nicaraguans never availed themselves of medical care.

We are also waging a campaign against illiteracy. By the end of 1986 we expect to include all children in a system of compulsory, free education. and to see that all adults have a fourth-grade education. This is a change of revolutionary magnitude in a country where illiteracy is universal.

At the same time our revolution calls for political pluralism and a mixed economy. This means letting the private sector operation within certain limits.

[Question] You mentioned political pluralism, but we hear accusations that insofar as the Sandinista revolution is concerned, one dictatorship has been replaced by another.

[Answer] It is too bad that the very newspapers that are worrying about the fate of democracy in Nicaragua were silent on the subject of Somoza's crimes. Now we are scored on every year, regardless of which way we go, as though people did not want to believe we were free to follow the path that seems right for us. But is there really a dictatorship in power in Nicaragua?

Let's look at the issue logically. For 4 years Nicaragua has been the target of military, propaganda, and economic aggression. All the attacks have met with decided resistance from the people. Was this done on behalf of a dictatorship? It would be interesting to see how many of those governments that accuse us of being a dictatorship would remain in power more than a day, if they did what we did, that is, armed the people, called an amnesty, and initiated free elections.

[Question] The Sandinistas at one time were attacked for allegedly not holding elections. Now people say they agreed to them under the pressure of world opinion.

[Answer] The truth of the matter is that back during the year the revolution was victorious, that is, in 1980, elections were promised for 1985. Nothing has changed since that time.

[Question] Will all parties be allowed to enter the elections?

[Answer] A law on parties is in effect which confirms political pluralism, as heralded by the revolution, but with certain exceptions. Those groups and individuals which were connected to the Somoza regime or counterrevolutionary groups fighting weapon in hand with financial assistance from outside will not have passive or active election rights.

[Question] What sorts of groups will take part in the elections?

[Answer] On the one hand, the parties making up the National Patriotic Front, that is, the Sandinista National Liberation Front, the Independent Liberal Party, the People's Socialist Party. On the other hand, the Democratic Coordination, made up of the Social Christian Party, the Social Democratic Party, and some trade union centers.

[Question] Democratic Coordination is an opposition coalition.

[Answer] That is right.

[Question] What happened to the traditional parties, the liberals and the conservatives?

[Answer] As a political force subordinated to Somoza, the Liberal Party has ceased to exist. The Conservative Party will take part in the elections outside the coalitions.

[Question] Would you like to explain the structure of the leadership in Nicaragua?

[Answer] The council of state is a temporary parliament, made up of representatives of the organizations which supported the revolution, and therefore also includes some bourgeois organizations. The executive power is the national reconstruction government, the ministers of which are also representatives of various political trends, including two priests. The

state is headed by the junta of the national reconstruction government. It is made up of three persons, and Daniel Ortega acts as coordinator. At the same time he is one of the ten revolution commanders who make up the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

[Question] Who governs Nicaragua?

[Answer] The national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front sets down the political directions. The council of state passes laws. Then the junta of the national reconstruction government is the supreme administrative body. The Sandinista National Liberation Front is the revolutionary avantgarde and through the intermediary of the national leadership delineates the direction of the revolutionary process.

[Question] Is there a person in Nicaragua upon whom basic decisions depend in a particular way?

[Answer] No, there is no such person. The guiding force of the revolution is the national leadership, whose nine members are of equal rank. There is no secretary general or chairman.

[Question] Can a country be run by nine people simultaneously, especially in a very complicated domestic and international situation?

[Answer] It can, as you can see from the 5 years' experience of the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

[Question] Isn't there the danger of internal disputes and a struggle for power?

[Answer] Why should they fight, when unity was a condition to the victory of the revolution? Actually, the opponents of the revolution counted on such internal quarrels. American propaganda tried many times to set the national leadership at odds, elevating some and slandering others, but nothing came out of it. The national leadership actually does operate as a novenvirate and has not split up at the most difficult moments.

[Question] Sometimes the case of Eden Pastora, the famous Commander Zero, is presented as an example of the difficulties in the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

[Answer] Eden Pastora did not have anything to do with the national leadership. He was never a member of it.

[Question] But he was a national hero, and at one time he was the most famous Sandinista.

[Answer] We have thousands of heroes; 55,000 perished, others continue to die, also at the hand of Eden Pastora. He gained his fame in August 1978, the year after the attack on the national palace, because he did not remain incognito as the instruction commanded, as one of the operations group which took 2,500 hostages. He betrayed the revolution for classist motives. He

comes from a landholding family and tried to keep the revolution from taking a radical course. When he failed, he went over to the other side. Every movement has its renegades and traitors.

[Question] What is the strength of the counterrevolution?

[Answer] It has several armed organizations. The most important force is the Democratic Front of Nicaragua, which is made up mostly of soldiers and officers of the Somozan national guard. Its divisions are operating on the Honduran frontier. The units of Eden Pastora's Revolutionary Democratic Alliance are stationed in Costa Rica. There are other smaller ones, but they all operate off American money and have the same goal: the take over the country, to set up a government which the United States could assist, including assistance by way of military intervention.

[Question] Does this plan have any chance of success?

[Answer] Up till now the counterrevolutionaries have not managed to get hold of a single scrap of Nicaraguan land.

[Question] But the tensions surrounding Nicaragua are constantly growing.

[Answer] Battles are waged not only on the borders. There are bomb threats and attacks on industrial installations in various parts of the country. The increase in aggression is the consequence of Washington's policy towards Central America. As I have already said, we will defend the revolution to the end.

[Question] The problem of Central America does not end with Nicaragua. The Sandinistas are accused of supplying arms to partisans in El Salvador.

[Answer] First, there is no proof of this. Second, what would you call the military assistance which the United States is giving the junta in El Salvador, which does not enjoy the support of the Salvadorean people? We have long been calling for leaving the Salvadoreans alone. Let them handle their own problems. Unfortunately, Washington will not agree to this.

[Question] What is the difference between the position of Washington and that of the Contadora group?

[Answer] Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama, the group called Contadora, generally speaking is striving to resolve the conflict in Central America without intervention from outside. Contadora represents bourgeois governments, but they are Latin American governments, and they have a realistic assessment of the situation in Central America. They realize that conflict in this region is not the result of communist infiltration, as Reagan says, but of terrible poverty and injustice. Contadora realizes the catastrophic results which could come from an attempt to resolve the problems of Central America by armed force. Wanting to avoid revolution, you have to use political and economic methods, not force.

[Question] Many times President Reagan has praised Contadora's initiative.

[Answer] For his own public reputation, but he never made any concrete gesture in the direction of the solutions proposed by Contadora.

[Question] Something inherited from Somoza is the killing I saw in Nicaragua. People expect an improvement in the situation from the revolution.

[Answer] Meanwhile, in place of rebuilding a damaged economy and developing the country, we have to set up defense, which ties the hands of thousands and occupies their minds. The economic situation is difficult not only because of the military conditions but also because of the world crisis. We can say with pride that we have the most stable economy in the region, the one which insures the interests of the people the best. On the other hand, our economy is burdened with tremendous debts left us by Somoza and with the need to buy fuel, alongside unfavorable world prices on our exports at the same time.

[Question] What is your assessment of relations between Poland and Nicaragua?

[Answer] The situation both in Poland and in Nicaragua in recent years has not favored broader economic contacts, but there is the desire for cooperation on both sides. We are carrying on talks at high levels and expect that practical decisions will be made in 1984.

10790

CSO: 2600/704

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR 'SPECIAL ZONE III' OUTLINED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Special Zone II, Reality and Prospect

In this "Socioeconomic Monday" section, we intend to focus on certain aspects of the historical, economic and social status of Special Zone III (Department of Rio San Juan), because this is a region which was extremely isolated by the Somoza dictatorship and is unknown to the majority of Nicaraguans.

The difficulties encountered by the revolution upon the victory over the dictatorship were compounded, in 1983, by the heightening of the counterrevolutionary activity based in Costa Rica.

The counterrevolutionary offensive cost the loss of human lives (31 comrades assassinated and 45 kidnapped) and of material resources, also upsetting the programing of the institutions and the production goals of the peasant sector; all of this in an attempt to stall the progress of the plan for transformations in the socioeconomic area proposed by the revolution.

The counterrevolutionary activity has been confronted by the determination of the organized people, the revolutionary state agencies and the FSLN which, following the example of the heroic commando group that attacked San Carlos barracks in 1977 (starting the final offensive against the dictatorship) managed to turn the difficulties into tools for a more accelerated progress in the construction of the new society.

Despite the progress, the path that remains to be covered in the economic and social area is still very long and difficult.

General Data on the Department of Rio San Juan

Area of the department: 6,418 square kilometers.*

Population: 30,219 inhabitants.

Population density: 4.7 inhabitants per square kilometer.

*The municipality of El Almendro, which temporarily comes under Chontales, owing to land communications problems with that sector, is not included.

Population density of Nicaragua: 24 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Location: The region lies in the southeastern corner of Nicaragua, bounded on the north by Chontales, on the south by Costa Rica (250 kilometers of border), on the east by Zelaya and on the west by the Lake of Nicaragua (Cocibolca).

Accessibility: The region is reached exclusively by water 10 months of the year.

Source: INEC [Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Census], Statistical Yearbook, 1982.

Inherited Backwardness and Poverty

The most serious problems that the zone inherited were:

a. Isolation: The lack of land communication with the country 10 months of the year; with transportation provided exclusively by boat, taking 16 hours; no television, radio, telephone or radio-telegraph.

b. Very large concentration of land: A small group of landholders, mainly Somoza, concentrated 67 percent of the land on estates, while the bulk of the peasants had access to only 6 percent of the area on estates.

c. Low educational level: The department with the highest illiteracy rate in the country: 96.2 percent of the population.

d. Unhealthiness: The child death rate was the highest in the country, and the overall death rate amounted to 43 per 1,000 inhabitants.

e. Productive instability: Productive activity contingent on sporadic, external factors, resulting in a constant instability for labor and development.

Transformations Fostered by the Revolution

The revolution has expended great efforts to lay the groundwork for the region's total development, prominent among which are the following:

a. Regionalization: "For a zone as alienated and underdeveloped as ours, the measure to regionalize the country and decentralize the government administration adopted by the JGRN upon the commemoration of the third anniversary of the revolutionary victory, and the decision to treat the Special Zone of Rio San Juan, have resulted in a great impetus for the creation of conditions that will allow for the start of its socioeconomic development."

("Rio San Juan, Development for Peace and Sovereignty," Government Delegation, Special Zone III, and interview with Capt Alejandro Guevara, JGRN delegate, Special Zone III.)

b. Redistribution of land and cooperative organization:

It is the region in which the APP [People's Ownership Sector] has attained a major influence in the control of the land. The cooperative movement, in turn,

currently consists of 42 cooperatives (33 Sandinist Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives, eight Credit and Service Cooperatives and one Workers Collective), with 1,098 members.

Titles to 20,373 manzanas, and benefits have been given to 568 peasant families, and 12 property owners have been subjected to liens for idleness and for maintaining backward production relations (squatters, tenant farming) on an area of 20,361 manzanas.

c. Communications: There has been progress in water transportation, but there are still serious problems, and the demand is not being met. In land transportation, the project that is under way on the Acoyapa-San Carlos highway represents a break in the zone's isolation. Now, one can go as far as San Miguelito all the time, and, in the summer, as far as Las Azucenas. Since the revolutionary victory, radio, television, direct telephone, radiotelegraph and telex have appeared in the zone.

d. Services to the population: There is been a great deal of progress insofar as health is concerned: the construction of 11 health stations and one health center, the expansion of the hospital, the holding of vaccination drives, a fivefold increase in the number of consultations per month, an increase in the number of surgeries and the checking of malnutrition.

In the field of education, a reduction in the illiteracy rate to 32 percent has been achieved, an agricultural-livestock institute has been created to start night-time instruction for a diploma, a preschool unit has been opened, the normal school has been formed, the program for training in agricultural-livestock development and agrarian reform, sponsored by MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], adult education, etc.

e. Organizational level of the population: (see table)

Development Strategy for the Zone

A series of elements is combined in planning the development of the zone, but we are citing the two most important ones here:

The Acoyapa-San Carlos-Costa Rica highway: It is the backbone of the zone's development, because it has an enormous effect on the entire socioeconomic situation.

The agricultural-livestock development strategy: It establishes a socio-productive frontier (geographical zone, see map) around the existing infrastructure, wherein the population and production will be concentrated. In this way, the plan for the resettlements is included in the strategy, because it concentrates the peasantry and puts the latter in far more favorable conditions for producing and raising its standard of living (through access to productive and social services), as well as for its self-defense against the attacks of the counterrevolution. (See table on settlements.)

Three fundamental elements may be cited in the strategy:

Strengthening of the APP, which is destined to be the core of the development. This means improving the workers' productivity, efficiency and participation.

Development of the cooperative movement, through access to land, input and technology, and participation in the development projects.

Development projects (see table). It should be noted that the projects will have internal coordination between APP and the cooperative sector, wherein APP will be the group for technology and industrial processing, guaranteeing that the relationship will prove beneficial for the consolidation of the cooperative movement.

Source: Interview with Comrade Horacio Cuadra, MIDINRA regional director, Special Zone III.

Development Projects

Agricultural-Livestock	Industrial and Services
Livestock development (total project for the zone)	San Miguelito-San Carlos-Costa Rica highway
Dairy development	Expansion of telephone, telegraph and radiotelephony system
Total livestock development (joint investment, Nicaragua-Libya)	Installation of drinking water systems for the settlements
Agroindustrial rice development	Construction of two wharves (in Morrito and San Miguelito)
African palm	Housing construction in San Carlos (150), settlements (1,500) and the Juan M. Loredó UPE [State Production Unit] (200)
Root crops	Construction of market, movie theater and slaughterhouse in San Carlos
Rubber	Construction of materials factory
Garden produce	Construction of two primary schools, a special education center, an agricultural-livestock and normal institute and training school in Solentiname
Staple grains	Construction of four health stations, expansion of a health center and improvements to the hospital
Avocados	

1) ASENTAMIENTOS CAMPESINOS EN LA ZONA ESPECIAL III

2) Asentamientos	3) No. Familia	4) Población resentida	5) No. Coop.	6) No. Miembros	7) Área asigna- da con Títu- lo de R.A.	8) Área a ser en- tregada en Feb.	9) Crédito Autorizado
Mayor nivel de consolidación. 10)							
1. Buena Vista	101	486	6	145	100	3,000	C\$ 1,712,252
2. Santa Cruzita	57	343	2	44	—	1,000	1,535,181
3. Los Chiles	185	1,113	4	134	1000	3,000	467,000
4. Las Arceas	188	1,055	4	87	3300	1,500	721,000
5. Santa Isabel	30	111	2	22	430	1,000	57,200
6. La Venada	245	1,473	—	—	—	4,500	—
Menor nivel de consolidación. 11)							
7. La Esperanza	150	700	3	103	—	4,500	—
8. Laurel Galán	77	370	2	47	1405	1,000	445,348
9. San Cristóbal	100	600	—	—	—	4,500	—
10. Cruz Verde	30	180	2	38	1000	—	227,848
11. México	109	600	1	41	1000	—	215,860
12. Valencia	100	600	—	—	—	4,500	—
13. Mayasán	—	—	—	—	—	4,500	—
TOTAL	1372	7,640	26	671	8236 Mz.	33,000 Mz.	C\$ 5,381,291

FUENTE: Informe sobre los Asentamientos, Dic. 1983
Delegación de Gobierno, Z.E. III

12)

Table 1.

Key:

1. Peasant Settlements in Special Zone III
2. Settlements
3. No. of families
4. Resettled population
5. No. of cooperatives
6. No. of members
7. Area assigned with Agrarian Reform Title
8. Area to be turned over in Feb.
9. Credit authorized
10. Greater level of consolidation
11. Lesser level of consolidation
12. Source: Report on the Settlements, Dec. 1983, Government Delegation, Special Zone III

Key to Map:

1. Special Zone III
2. Agricultural-Livestock Development, Projection Year 2000
3. Special Zone II
4. Rice
5. Livestock development
6. Total livestock development (ANILIB)
7. Rubber
8. Dairy development
9. Avocados
10. Garden produce
11. Cacao
12. Root crops
13. African palm
14. Staple grains
15. Lake of Nicaragua
16. Atlantic Ocean
17. Total project (livestock raising)
18. Specific projects
19. Total livestock development project (ANILIB)
20. Highway planned for short term
21. Existing highway

1) Sector de propiedad	1979		1983	
	Manzanas	q/o	Manzanas	q/o
APP 2)	195.000	58	185.000	53
Cooperativas 3)	.	.	20.000	5.5
Sector privado				
grande 4)	50.000	15	30.000	8.5
Campesinado 5)	90.000	27	115.000	33
	335.000	100	350.000	100

FUENTE: MIDINRA, Zona Especial III. 6)

Table 2.

Key:

1. Ownership sector
2. People's Ownership Sector
3. Cooperatives
4. Large private sector
5. Peasantry
6. Source: MIDINRA, Special Zone III

1) ORGANIZACION		No. AFILIADOS 2)	
JS 19 Julio 3)	9)	500	(104 militantes)
ATC 4)	10)	800	(80 por ciento de asalariados)
UNAG 5)	11)	1320	afiliados
CDS 6)	12)	15	directivas en 5 núcleos poblacionales.
FETSALUD 7)	13)	183	afiliados
ANDEN 8)	14)	238	afiliados

FUENTE: Entrevista con el compañero Javier Alvarez,
15) Secretario Político FSLN, Z.E. III.

Table 3.

Key:

1. Organization
2. No. of members
3. 19 July Sandinist Youth
4. Association of Agricultural Workers
5. Union of Farmers and Livestock Raisers
6. Sandinist Defense Committee
7. Federation of Health Workers
8. National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers
9. 104 militants
10. 80 percent wage-earners
11. 1,320 members
12. 15 boards of directors in 5 population groups
13. 183 members
14. 238 members
15. Source: Interview with Comrade Javier Alvarez, FSLN political secretary, Special Zone III

2909

CSO: 3248/463

BRIEFS

SANDINO FILM, TRAVELING EXPOSITION--The life and thinking of Sandino will tour Greece, Finland, Sweden, Norway and the USSR, as part of a traveling exhibition of documents, books, arts and crafts and primitive painting to be sponsored by the Ministry of Culture as one of its activities marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino. Minister Ernesto Cardenal made this announcement yesterday, during a lecture in which he listed the Ministry of Culture's various activities to commemorate the 50 anniversary of Sandino's death. In Managua, the Solidarity with Nicaragua Museum of American Art will be reopened. This museum will be temporarily housed in the Ruben Dario People's Theater, and finally moved to the House of Art to be built on the former premises of the Grand Hotel. With regard to this project, Cardenal said that "the plans are already made and the budget is being prepared." It will be not only a museum, but also an establishment for constant cultural activities; which is why it will be called the House of Art, or Culture, as was desired by the great writer, Julio Cortazar, who considered the term "museum" to be like a man who would suggest something embalmed, as the minister of culture remarked. A film on Sandino will also be produced, one that is being made by INCINE; and a record containing songs inspired by the hero's feats will also be introduced. [Excerpts] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Feb 84 p 5] 2909

BATTALION 40-21 RETURNS--Battalion 40-21 returned home on 9 March, completing 7 months and 18 days in defense of the country's sovereignty. First Lieutenant Herminio Escoto declared the battalion a "vanguard" because of its aggressive disposition and urged the battalion members to continue the struggle. [Summary] [PA200532 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Mar 84 p 10 PA]

CSO: 3248/508

BRIEFS

BANANA LOSSES--CASTRIES, Sun., (Cana): ST. LUCIA is losing one million dollars in foreign exchange annually because of the poor quality of some bananas exported to the Main United Kingdom market, according to Agriculture Minister Ira Dauvergne. Dauvergne spoke yesterday at the start of a major campaign by the Banana Growers' Association to impress upon growers the need for top quality fruit. "The one million dollar loss represents fruit which could have been sold had they been up to standard and thereby significantly increasing earnings of the farming community," the minister said. Dauvergne said the fall in quality standards was a result of some farmers failure to follow basic guidelines. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Mar 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/655

HEALTH MINISTER VAN TRIKT COMPLETES NEW CABINET

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] With the swearing-in yesterday of Dr Robert E. van Trikt, 39, by President Fred Ramdat Misier, the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr Wim Udenhout is complete.

Dr Van Trikt is the second minister to be recommended by the trade and industry organizations (VSB [Association of Suriname Trade and Industry] and ASFA [Association of Suriname Factory Workers]). The other is Mr Marcel Chehin. The labor movement provided the government with two ministers as well.

Problems

Minister Van Trikt told journalists shortly after his swearing-in that he is aware of the fact that he is taking over the ministry in the midst of several problems. In this regard, he cited problems at the Academic Hospital and at the National Hospital, the question of doctors and state health insurance, and supplies of medicine.

"At Health, I will certainly also work on creating consultative structures," the statesman said. Much consultation must be carried out, and health workers will be involved as well.

Congratulations

Immediately after taking the oath of office, the new minister was first congratulated by President Ramdat Misier, who wished him "success and wisdom." Prime Minister Udenhout did the same with a "welcome."

On behalf of the military authorities, Chief of Staff Ivan Graanoogst brought congratulations as a representative of the Commander.

In addition to representatives of trade and industry, Minister Van Trikt also received congratulations from the Protestant Hospital and the MEDIZEBS [Medical Mission of the Evangelical Brethren], where he worked up until yesterday.

Biographic Sketch

Robert van Trikt was born in Paramaribo on 15 October 1944. After attending Juliana School, he studied for 3 years at Hendrik Advanced Elementary School, and then went to the Netherlands, where he lived for 18 years. He first attended grammar school, and afterwards received his secondary school B diploma. In 1964 he went to Leiden to study, where he received his medical diploma 10 years later. He subsequently worked for 2 years in the Netherlands, and returned to our country in 1976, where he took up a position at the Protestant Hospital. He worked extensively in the inland. In 1978 he returned to Paramaribo as a house doctor, and since 1979 he has been coordinator of the MEDIZEBS.

12271

CSO: 3214/26

BOUTERSE SEES TIES WITH U.S. BEING NORMALIZED

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 27 Feb 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Suriname remains ready to pursue a dialogue with the Netherlands on the condition that the latter nation recognizes and respects our status as a sovereign and independent nation.

This is apparent from statements made by the leader of the revolution, Lt Col Desi Bouterse, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the revolution.

United States

He said that the disturbed relations with the United States are being normalized slowly but surely. Certainly now that the sincere intentions and ideals of our revolution for freedom, democracy and justice and an independent foreign policy are being understood to an increasing extent.

Lieutenant Colonel Bouterse said that relations with the Netherlands "have thus far remained problematic."

"The one-sided and illegal violation of the development treaty and the constant interference in our internal affairs led to a serious disturbance between two countries that have a long history in common." On the other hand, many common points of contact continue to exist in relations between the people of the two countries.

Businesslike

Lieutenant Colonel Bouterse said that the Dutch government perhaps cannot deal with the fact that its former colony is demanding the right to pursue its domestic as well as foreign policy independently, according to how it sees fit.

Suriname will pursue a businesslike policy towards the Netherlands, oriented towards the restoration of relations with the government and diplomatic representation, "in spite of provocations thus far experienced from that

party. However, we will have our objectives and principles, our integrity and dignity prevail in all circumstances."

We remain ready to enter into a dialogue with the Netherlands, on the condition that the latter country recognizes and respects our status as a sovereign and independent nation.

Come to See

"We hope that the Netherlands will quickly come to see that its attitude with regard to Suriname is an incorrect one, and that they have judged developments in Suriname wrongly." The leader: "However, we will have to be mindful of the fact that this dialogue will not be simple, because the attitude and the actions of the Dutch government and parliament over the past 4 years do not warrant any great optimism.

"But, in this dialogue we will have to create a policy from our own situation and our goals, such that this contributes to a better mutual understanding of that which we as self-conscious and progressive Surinamers are working on."

Decolonialization

The commander directed himself in a personal note to our compatriots overseas who have over the past 4 years experienced the revolutionary developments taking place here at home after their own fashion.

He pointed out the attacks by the Dutch press of the decolonialization process in Suriname and about the despair that has arisen among some compatriots in the Netherlands as a result of reporting by the Dutch media.

"Our compatriots overseas are also confused by the activities of a very small group of traitors in the Netherlands, who attack our revolution purely out of self-interest. But in spite of all this, the overwhelming majority of our compatriots overseas have taken an understanding position towards the revolutionary developments that began 4 years ago. This large mass of our compatriots in the Netherlands has, in spite of distortions of the actual situation, chosen the side of their own country and their own leaders; they have taken a patriotic position."

Lieutenant Colonel Bouterse called on them to continue to support the process.

To those who are deceived: "to that small group of traitors I say: don't let yourselves continue to be made a fool of, here is your country, and here there is always a place for you."

12271

CSO: 3214/26

PNM PREPARES FOR NEXT ELECTION WITH LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 18 Mar 84 p 9

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] PRIME MINISTER George Chambers last Sunday made his first political chess move to give the aging People's National Movement (PNM), of which he is political leader, what he had promised over the past few months--a new image.

He proposed the Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Senator Russell Martineau, as 1st vice-chairman of the party to replace Basil Pitt, who held the post for the past 17 years.

The General Council, meeting for the first time in the new term, approved the selection of Mr. Martineau without an objecting murmur.

By proposing Mr. Martineau for the job, Mr. Chambers had skillfully check-mated Works Minister Hugh Francis, who earlier had made two bids for the post. This time Mr. Francis was outwitted by Mr. Chambers, whom some party members are quietly accusing of infringing the party's constitution.

There are no provisions in the party's constitution that empower the political leader to propose anyone to fill such posts.

The political leader can only appoint his three political deputies and announce them at each annual convention.

Election Matters

The relevant provision states: "All officers, with the exception of the deputy political leaders (party and election matters, policy matters, and legislative matters) shall be elected by secret ballot on the basis of written nominations proposed by a party group of the movement and submitted to the General Council provided that such nominations shall not be valid without the prior consent of the person nominated given in writing."

Under the constitution the General Council has the power to fill any vacancy. But to do so a circular announcing the vacancy must be out at least seven days in advance of the General Council meeting and the vacancy must be listed on the agenda.

Despite the fact that Mr. Chambers on two occasions indicated--first to the General Council and then to the annual convention--his intended moves, no one was bold or wise enough to inform him that he had no such power under the party's constitution.

So he went ahead and bowled his political ball--and got through.

Mr. Pitt, having been appointed High Commissioner to Canada, resident in Ottawa, must quit his party post. Whether he has done so is still not clear.

What is clear is that there was no vacancy listed on the agenda of last Sunday's General Council meeting. Nor it is understood, did the chairman have any resignation before him.

Even when the matter was mentioned General Council members remained tight-lipped. After the meeting it was the contrary.

Response

But the appointment of Mr. Martineau must not be viewed in the light of immediate response or result, for Mr. Chambers is looking down the road--to the 1986 general election. The PNM must have a new standard-bearer in its chairman.

In other words, Mr. Martineau's new position is only the platform for launching him into the seat of party chairman.

This raises the question of the future of Francis Prevatt in the party. Mr. Prevatt has been its chairman probably even longer than Mr. Pitt has been vice-chairman.

Since last year Mr. Prevatt, a past-master at stage-managing situations both at General Council and convention levels, had indicated his intention to quit. However, behind-the-scenes moves for a replacement were futile. Some members were disappointed, others were not.

Came the belated 1983 annual convention and there was no election, the list of nominees having been cancelled on the recommendation of Mr. Chambers and on the approval of the General Council.

What is definite is that, at the next annual convention carded for September this year, Mr. Prevatt will be replaced. He is simply no longer interested in holding the post and will leave when his time is up in a matter of months.

The Attorney General will then be the man to take up the party's standard. And once more the opening will be provided for Mr. Francis to make a third bid for the vice-chairmanship.

Mr. Francis's first bid was made at the 1982 convention, but the election run-up was a "no-no" as the convention learned that Mr. Pitt had not resigned, although he had taken up the appointment of High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean states.

Support

Mr. Francis's second bid was in January when he again accepted nomination for the post, as all posts would have been up for election at the belated convention, eventually held last month. But the list of nominees was cancelled.

It is a widely accepted view within the party that if there is an election at all, Mr. Francis would win hands down. He is capable of galvanising enough support from the convention floor. All he has to do is bide his time and keep his cool.

Party members, at least some of them, seem to have some reservations about Mr. Martineau's capabilities to hold down the job of chairman, since he is relatively new to party politics.

Mr. Martineau surfaced in the PNM only in November, 1981, when he was drafted in to be Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs. Whether he held a party card before no one is sure. But there are doubts about that.

However, while it is true he lacks the experience, Mr. Martineau is brainy enough to catch on quickly. His level-headed and simple style ought to see him through safely, especially since the party seems very much devoid of "rebels" these days.

But there's another aspect to Mr. Martineau's selection as vice-chairman, and Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday mentioned it in the House of Representatives two Fridays ago.

Mr. Panday said in jest he was sorry for the Attorney General, as he (Panday) felt that Mr. Martineau's new appointment "really tarnishes his image as Attorney General."

Mr. Panday's fears are yet to be justified.

In his attempt to mould a new image for the party, Mr. Chambers has created a base for fast and furious questions by the insiders. They are looking to see who's next in the new line-up.

Prospect

Already there is another man in the picture. He is State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams, who holds the post of party treasurer, and reportedly is doing a good job.

Very quietly and unceremoniously Mr. Williams assumed the treasurer's job when former Minister Mervyn de Souza fell ill.

Mr. Williams fits that niche so well he is hardly likely to be challenged in that post at an election.

Another of the new faces that looms as a logical prospect for a party executive position is External Affairs Minister Dr. Basil Ince.

In the meantime the party continues to mark time with a situation that was created at the 1982 annual convention, when Winston Best, an administrative clerk at party headquarters (Balisier House) contested the post of field officer and won.

Although he was advised that he could not hold down the two posts, Mr. Best went ahead and contested. But even though it happened, the party continues to sidestep the issue, thus having to function without a really active field officer.

Mr. Best felt the party "could not touch him with a ten-foot pole," for if it did it would also have to sort out the situation as relates to Miss Muriel Green, a deputy political leader and simultaneously, lady vice-chairman. So far both situations continue to exist and would probably not be sorted out before the next annual convention.

So by next September Mr. Chambers ought to complete his new image--creating task in preparation for 1986.

CSO: 3298/631

PUBLIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION PUTS PROPOSALS TO GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] A BOLD list of proposals, including the payment of \$125,000 to the estate of a civil servant whose death is job related, severance benefits for temporary workers, and the eradication of ranges 4 and 5 in the public service, are being sought by the Public Services Association (PSA).

A housing allowance, insurance plan, eradication of the range consideration in awarding vacation and a change in promotion procedure, have also been proposed by the Association.

The death benefit, housing allowance and change in promotion procedure are part of the proposals put forward by the PSA along with the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA), the Police, Fire and Prisons Associations and the Postmens' Union.

They are within the context of broader joint proposals for cost items to be linked to the Consumer Price Index, a two-year agreement, and for the consolidation of Cost of Living Allowances.

The six public sector associations and union have appointed a joint negotiating team to negotiate matters common to them.

Even before Indexation is instituted, the labour team is seeking a 15 per cent salary increase effective January 1, 1984, for workers between ranges 4 and 59, a 12 per cent increase for those in range 60 and over, and an eight per cent increase for all ranges at the start of the agreement's second year.

They are asking that adjustments be made every six months according to indicators in the Consumer Price Index.

Five times the annual salary or \$125,000, whichever is greater, is being sought for a worker whose death is job related.

Severance benefits for temporary workers will also be negotiated jointly, the joint team seeking benefits of two months salary for each year of service for workers with less than five years service, and three months salary for each year of service for those with service of five years or more.

The team is also seeking that incremental points within ranges 4 to 56 and 57 to 59 be extended and the longevity allowance tagged on to the end and an increase in the ultimate salary of those workers in range 60 to bring them on a level with the ultimate increase of those in range 59.

The Housing allowance caters for the release of lands to unions for the development of housing estates.

In bi-lateral talks between the PSA and the CPO, the association has proposed an eradication of ranges four and five, moving those workers to range six, and those in range six to range seven.

Special insurance coverage for all public servants while performing duty has also been sought, the association proposing a minimum of \$125,000 for loss of life, with a Special Dependent Benefit at one-third of the current salary and compensation for injury such as loss of limb and impairment of the senses.

Under vacation, the association has proposed the eradication of salary scale in determining leave entitlement, seeking 28 days annually for workers with less than 10 years service, 35 days for those with more than 10 years and creating a 42-day entitlement for workers with service of 20 years and more.

CSO: 3298/631

ROBINSON SLAMS GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF TOBAGO FINANCES

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 11 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] **THE MINISTRY of Finance continues to ignore the Tobago House of Assembly and conducts business instead with the staff of the Assembly.**

"Yet, they try to make the public believe that we have control over our finances," complained Assembly Chairman ANR Robinson yesterday.

Latest evidence of what he described as the "fraudulent behaviour of the Ministry of Finance," was a letter addressed to Clarence Warner, Clerk of the Assembly, by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Frank Barsotti.

"It is incredible that a public servant should behave in this manner," said Robinson ... "and a permanent secretary for that matter," he added.

He said he proposed to take the matter up with the Auditor General and the Public Service Commission.

The letter from Barsotti, dated February 22, set out financial guidelines to be followed by the Assembly "to ensure that amounts appropriated for both capital and recurrent services are not exceeded." In his letter, Barsotti has asked to be supplied with a monthly accounting by the Assembly "in an effort to maximise the use of the cash resources of the government."

Excerpts of Barsotti's letter state:

"This information is to be submitted to reach the Budget Division by the 10th of each month in respect of the past month, and every month the projections for the balance of the year must be updated in the light of the actual performance of the previous months and any additional information coming to hand since submission of the previous statement. The first such statement should reach this Ministry by 10th March, 1984.

"A close examination of your projections will be maintained and requests for releases and grants of credits on the Exchequer will only be approved upon receipt of and will be based on the anticipated expenditure indicated on projections referred to at paragraph 3.

"Whereas previously it was the practice to release funds in advance to ministries/departments on a quarterly basis, the current financial exigencies make it necessary to

release such funds in advance on a monthly basis or for even shorter periods.

You are also reminded that:

(a) each request for the release of funds will continue to require a supporting works and expenditure schedule in which there should be appropriate disaggregation of expenditure at the project level; and

(b) all other requirements relative to the release of funds will continue to apply, e.g. written confirmation of the availability of funds should be sought and obtained from the Ministry of Finance and planning prior to requesting the Central Tenders Board to invite tenders for any activity (project, goods or service of a value exceeding \$40,000.

You will recall that I had notified Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments at our meeting of 2nd instant that:

(a) provision was made under the Ministry of Finance and Planning in respect only of vacant posts where at the time of preparation of the budget there were incumbents in such posts in an acting and/or temporary capacity; and

(b) no provision was made in the 1984 Budget for vacant posts where there were no incumbents at the time of the preparation of the 1984 Budget.

"I therefore take this opportunity to advise you that you should not approach the Director of Personnel Administration for the filling of vacant posts except you have cleared with this Ministry that funds are available to meet the salaries and other posts attaching to such positions.

"Where such an approach has already been made, you should request the Director of Personnel Administration to suspend action until you have ascertained from this ministry the position with respect to availability of funds to meet salaries and other related costs.

"It is to be repeated that you must make every conceivable attempt to keep within the appropriation. If in any particular area actual expenditure for the month exceeds the projection, you will have to indicate the steps you have taken to adjust or curtail future spending so as not to exceed the overall provision."

HEALTH MINISTER: NO PROGRESS ON TOBAGO HEALTH FACILITIES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 84 p 3

[Text]

HEALTH Minister, Senator Dr Neville Connell, has said that work on a number of health facilities in Tobago has not been resumed, although funds for their continuation were released to the Tobago House of Assembly since January.

Dr Connell said work on the Buccoo, Belle Garden and Roxborough Health Centres as well as on laboratory facilities at the Scarborough General Hospital, all suspended last December, was yet to resume. He said funds for the continuation of these projects had been released in early January.

The Minister said the Tobago House of Assembly has indicated that work on the projects would have resumed once funds had been released.

Dr Connell, who visited Tobago earlier this week to look at these projects, said he was "particularly concerned" about the Roxborough Health Centre because it had been under construction for three years and was now only 75 per cent completed. The original completion deadline had been May last year.

He doubted whether the centre would be completed on schedule in May this year, adding that the Assembly had undertaken to complete the four projects by June.

Dr Connell also said no workmen were present at the four sites he visited.

And he noted that the four health projects undertaken by the Assembly were scheduled for completion by July.

CSO: 3298/631

FIRE AT ELECTRICAL POWER STATION HAS WIDE RAMIFICATIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Leonard Robertson and Suzanne Lopez]

[Text] A MAJOR fire at a sub station on the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission's power station at Point Lisas yesterday knocked out the power supply of at least two major industries--Industrial Gases Limited and the Methanol Plant--and also affected surrounding residential areas in California and the Perseverance Estate.

A spokesman for the Fire Department told the EXPRESS a switch room at the power station "suffered extensive damage" when the fire broke out between 7 and 8.a.m yesterday.

Units from the Couva and Point Lisas Fire Stations rushed to the scene and with the assistance of the fire units from Fertilizers of Trinidad and Tobago (Fertrin) put out the blaze.

The spokesman said that losses could not be ascertained although a substantial amount of wires and cables was destroyed. By late afternoon power had been restored to the residential areas as well as some of the industrial plants but the Methanol Plant was still without supply.

Production stopped at both the Methanol Plant and Industrial Gases Limited and several small factories. Residents of Perseverance Village who experienced a power cut during the morning and early afternoon regained power around 2 pm. Power was restored at the California and Industrial Gases Limited about three hours later.

Public Relations Officer at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) Roy Mitchell, told the EXPRESS late yesterday he could say exactly when power would be restored to the Methanol Plant could but "every effort is being made to have this done in the shortest possible time."

He said the fire occurred in the 12 kilovolt switchroom of the Point Lisas Power Station.

Mitchell said, however, that initial examination of the installations following the fire indicated that the damage done had been substantial.

He said T&TEC received assistance from Fertrin and the Iron and Steel company (ISCOOT) in putting out the blaze with fire-fighting powder as the fire engines on the scene were equipped with water which was inappropriate for electrical fires.

CSO: 3298/632

BUSINESS DEALS OF HOUSING PROJECTS CRITICIZED, PROBED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 18 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] CONTRACTS worth more than \$25 million were reportedly given out by the Point Lisas Property Development Company (Plipdeco) and the National Energy Corporation without tenders being invited for certain projects at Point Lisas.

This is one of the issues being probed by the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee of Parliament in its investigations into the manner in which millions of dollars were spent on projects at Point Lisas and the Couva housing project.

There is another report that \$320,000 was paid for a batching plant before it was seen. When it arrived it was discovered that the equipment was old and used and could not work. Fifty thousand dollars was paid to the firm of S.K. Watson to have it repaired and then it was sold for much less than what was paid for it. The batching plant never worked one day.

The matter came to light late Friday night in Parliament when Opposition member Kelvin Ramnath, a member of the Public Accounts Committee, was making his contribution to the debate on a Bill to impose a health surcharge on all employed persons.

The Government measure is estimated to rake in an estimated \$169 million for the upkeep of the country's health services.

Mr. Ramnath told the House of Representatives that the Opposition found it extremely difficult to be associated with such legislation.

The Government, he said, needs not look from such a source for the money since it could be found elsewhere.

Mr. Ramnath: "If, for example, they look at what takes place at Point Lisas and the powers they have given to certain people in Point Lisas, then they will recognise that they can save a lot of money. Where there are certain individuals who belong to certain state-owned corporations who can go to Georgia and bring companies from Georgia into Point Lisas, persons who do not have any

respect for the Minister of State Enterprises or the Minister of Finance, people who gave out contracts to the extent of more than \$25 million without having to tender.

Housing Project

"Also, where you have companies running high-tension electrical lines from Georgia and contracts being awarded to these companies by the Electricity Commission.

"The same companies are involved in the Couva housing project, the Penal market and the Chaguanas County Council project; the same companies are involved in the building of the IDC shells in Point Lisas; the same companies are involved in the running of the high tension cables.

"If you want to know where your money has gone, go to Georgia and you will know."

Mr. Ramnath also advised: "Find out about the connections between Southwire and the National Energy Corporation, Richards Associates and Reynolds and Estane Corporation, and then you will know where you can cut back to find the money to subsidise the health services in the country.

"The public will know about this very shortly. It is only because it is a matter of parliamentary decency that these matters are not discussed in public and why it has not yet met the public.

"The Minister of State Enterprises and the Prime Minister are fully aware of the facts and we cannot be a party to charging citizens for health services meted out to paupers in the society and have these kings operating, people who do what they want."

Mr. Ramnath said he had heard that the Government was giving the National Energy Corporation the responsibility for apartment buildings in San Fernando. "Do you people know what you are doing?" he asked.

"If you have any intention of giving the National Energy Corporation the contract to manage that housing project for Toruba and for Embacadere and a few other places, you better think about what you are doing after the experience of Estane, a company registered in the Grand Cayman Island with three shares," he said.

Mr. Ramnath told Parliament that a contract was given to Estane, even before the company was formed, for the "Vega units". And before the houses were handed over certain people had participated in the theft of items installed in the houses.

"Ask me," he said, "I live next to it."

He said washing machines and dryers had disappeared. "They never gave the people what they paid for.

"After they committed one of the most serious crimes in Point Lisas," they even got the contract to refurbish the Farrell House hotel. The contract for the fixtures, the furnishings, the lighting and the carpeting was given to the same Estane Corporation, a company registered in the Grand Cayman," he said.

Contract

Estane, Mr. Ramnath pointed out, was registered as a company in 1982. But Dunn and Bradstreet knew nothing about them. However, Estane had signed the contract with (Plipdeco) in 1981--before being registered as a company.

He also spoke of the involvement of the firm Richards and Associates and the firm Estane, recommended by Southwire to build aluminum houses that cost \$181,000; then there was the Penal market that cost \$7 million.

"This has been the biggest scandal that has taken place in this country," said Mr. Ramnath. "Give the National Energy Corporation to build houses in Trinidad? They violated every procedure of the Central Tenders Board," he charged.

Mr. Ramnath said it was because of his efforts that the Public Accounts Committee was made aware of the situation. And what started it all, was the very minute loss, as he put it of \$434,000 worth of aggregate which never arrived at the concrete plant.

In the process, he hinted, the committee had come up against "very major problems."

The committee is headed by Opposition Senator Lincoln Myers, and includes Independent Senator Gerald Furness-Smith, Government Senator Alwyn Poon Tip and Nan Soomai, Parliamentary Secretaries John Scott and Ashton Forde, and Opposition members James Ogiste of Tobago West and Mr. Ramnath.

CSO: 3298/632

BRIEFS

ARMS, AMMUNITION IMPORTATION--AN ENGINEER employed with an oil company yesterday appeared before Magistrate Laymas Sinanan in the Port of Spain First Court accused of importing and having in his possession firearms and ammunition. The accused, Winston Fahey, of Petit Valley, was granted bail in the sum of \$10,000 with a surety before the hearing was adjourned to March 22. His father, Montague Fahey, elected to stand his son's bail. The accused was represented by lawyer Oudit Ramlogan. The two charges were brought against Fahey on Tuesday night after police executed a search of a container consigned to the accused and parked near his home where it was alleged three revolvers and about 60 rounds of ammunition were found. He was charged with importing the revolvers without permission and having in his possession the firearms and ammunition. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/632

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